

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

EU grants Jordan 30m ECUs

AMMAN (Petra) — The European Union (EU) has agreed to grant Jordan 30 million European Currency Units (ECUs) to support the Kingdom's economic reform programme. The amount will be used to finance imports for the health and education sectors. The EU last year granted Jordan 50 million ECUs. In another development, the EU and Jordan have recently concluded an agreement whereby the EU will give Jordan 11 million ECUs to help finance a water improvement project. The project aims to help the country meet water shortage, and expand and replace water networks in various parts of the Kingdom, including Karak, Tafleh, Shobak, Kufanja, Ramtha, Mafraq and Madaba. The European Investment Bank will also provide 12 million ECUs to the Water Authority of Jordan to help it conduct the necessary maintenance on Salt water networks.

Volume 18 Number 5708

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, RABI' ALAKHER 2, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Vatican not expected to sign population document Holy See baulks at EU compromise

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Vice President Al Gore said here Tuesday he did not expect the Vatican to sign a plan on curbing world birth rates despite moves towards a compromise on abortion at the U.N. population conference. The Vatican said meanwhile it could not give "implicit or explicit" support to parts of the 113-page document which the 182 states at the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development have been asked to endorse. Vatican officials and Muslim conservatives charge that many sections condone abortion, homosexuality and premarital sex. "No-one should have any illusion that there's going to be some kind of result that causes the Vatican to sign this document," according to Mr. Gore who had held talks with Vatican delegates for 40 minutes on Tuesday. However, Timothy Wirth, a U.S. State Department official, and British delegates said momentum was building towards a compromise agreement on a key section of the plan concerning abortion. An Iranian official added that Islamic states were also heading for a compromise. When asked if there was a contradiction between Mr. Gore's and his remarks, Mr. Wirth said the vice president did not want to raise "false expectations." Mr. Gore said that even without the Vatican's signature, the "final document will have the broadest consensus ever."

European countries had proposed a compromise formula that was discussed here Tuesday in a bid to save the plan aimed at preventing the population from almost doubling to 10 billion in the next 50 years. Mr. Gore, who spoke to journalists after talks with conference host Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said the Vatican did not sign the final documents at U.N. population conferences 10 years ago and 20 years ago. The vice president, who had come under personal attack from the Holy See last week, said the Vatican "will not sign the document in Cairo no matter what happens within the range of what's likely to happen." But Mr. Gore insisted the conference was already a success and had not been sidetracked by the publicity over the abortion issue. Once the delegates arrived in Cairo and real discussions began it became clear that the controversy was over "about less than one per cent" of the action plan to slow population growth. The Vatican said the "Holy See cannot give explicit or implicit support to those parts of the document regarding abortion," as well as those it said harm the family and encourage free sex among young people. The Vatican forcefully told the conference that while it recognised rapid population growth as a serious problem, it would not make major concessions on abortion or family issues. On the second day of the conference, the Vatican also stressed that it had not changed its position against use of contraceptives, including condoms. The Vatican, which has been mounting a campaign to prevent the conference's final document from even indirectly supporting abortion as a means of family planning, spelled out its position in a three-page statement. "The Holy See publicly acknowledges that there are serious problems connected with population growth," an official statement from the Holy See delegation said. The Vatican has been locked in a battle over the wording of draft of the final document, which it fears could indirectly support abortion as a means of family planning. European Union (EU) nations and the United States have been trying to find new language to minimise the potential worldwide impact of Vatican dissent on the document. But Tuesday's statement made it clear that while the Vatican might accept some compromise language, it would not budge on fundamental moral issues. Apart from its opposition to abortion, the Vatican contests wording which it feels weakens the traditional family. Although the document



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visits one of the formations of the 5th Royal Armoured Division

Present era broadens army's role — Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited one of the formations of the 5th Royal Armoured Division at a training site, where he was received by the commanders of the division who briefed him on the stages of the military exercise carried out by the formation. Prince Hassan conveyed to the officers greetings from His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. The Regent stressed in a speech to the officers the importance of equipping the armed forces with the latest armament technology and organisation.

Prince Hassan said modernisation and development of the Armed Forces should be in line with the priorities set by the users, and noted the importance of being objective and realistic when dealing with priorities. "Talking about the peace process leads us to talk about rebuilding the Armed Forces in accordance with the requirements of this era, which practically broadens their responsibilities," the Prince said. He added that Jordan plays a pivotal role in the region. "The Armed Forces' role is a distinguished one in all circumstances. Their role in the coming stage is as important as it was in the past," the Crown Prince said. Prince Hassan added that the Armed Forces shoulder the responsibility for protecting and maintaining "our borders" and securing the country's borders. "Our new perception of the Armed Forces' structure and organisation in the next stage should lead us to be convinced that the shift from the present system to a new one is a shift towards a better force not only by the standards of the region but also those of the world," he pointed out. Prince Hassan inspected training activities and watched a number of demonstrations including shooting with live ammunition.

the Crown Prince said. Prince Hassan added that the Armed Forces shoulder the responsibility for protecting and maintaining "our borders" and securing the country's borders. "Our new perception of the Armed Forces' structure and organisation in the next stage should lead us to be convinced that the shift from the present system to a new one is a shift towards a better force not only by the standards of the region but also those of the world," he pointed out. Prince Hassan inspected training activities and watched a number of demonstrations including shooting with live ammunition.

Pope calls off Sarajevo visit

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — Pope John Paul II on Tuesday cancelled a visit to Sarajevo scheduled for Thursday, the Vatican said. In a statement, the Vatican said the Pope had always insisted on receiving guarantees for the security of people who would come out to see him in the Bosnian capital. "Unfortunately, these guarantees could not be obtained despite a series of contacts with the parties involved," the statement said. News of the cancellation came as eleven artillery shells fired from Bosnian Serb territory slammed into outlying areas of eastern Sarajevo in breach of the U.N. heavy weapons exclusion zone, U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Koos Sol said in Sarajevo. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Preparations for the visit were already well under way, with the Pope's bullet-proof vehicle, popularly known as the "pope-mobile," flown into Sarajevo aboard a U.N. military plane. The U.N. Protection Force

in Sarajevo had told the Pope of its extreme situation over his visit but stressed it would do everything to ensure the pontiff's security during his stay. Bosnian Serbs whose forces surround Sarajevo had refused to provide assurances that Sarajevoans who turned out to greet the 76-year-old pontiff would be safe. They said Muslims would stage an incident and then blame the Serbs. "Apart from not wanting to expose all the people awaiting the Pope in the Bosnian capital to serious risks, there is also the concern that the visit to Sarajevo should not be misconstrued and raise tension," the statement said. Preparations for the visit had forged ahead in Sarajevo. Two U.N. military planes were also hit by ground fire over the last 48 hours, but no one was injured. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, in a written statement after meeting Vatican envoy Francesco Montemurro, said the Pope's visit was a "gesture of peace."

Velayati calls for end to Iraq embargo

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, Iraq's foe in the 1980-88 Gulf war, Tuesday called on the United Nations to lift its four-year-old embargo imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait. He also said that Baghdad should be part of any security structure in the region. "We hope that the United Nations will lift that economic embargo on the Iraqi people," Mr. Velayati told a news conference before ending a two-day visit to Oman and flying to Pakistan. Iran says it wants to establish good relations with Iraq, its traditional enemy, and help alleviate the suffering of Iraq's 18 million people caused by the crippling sanctions. Most of the Gulf Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, oppose easing the sanctions. "Iraq has a vital role to play in the region, and it must be included in... the security of the region," Mr. Velayati declared, speaking in Farsi through an Arabic translator. Mr. Velayati's remarks follow efforts by Baghdad and Tehran, despite allegations against each other of supporting terrorist attacks, to move toward making peace.

The 1980-88 war, in which there were an estimated one million casualties on both sides, was halted by a U.N.-brokered ceasefire. But no peace treaty has yet been signed. Iran stayed neutral in the 1991 Gulf war. But both it and Iraq have been branded rogue states by Washington, which is pursuing a policy of "dual containment" to prevent them becoming major regional military powers again. Velayati's remarks came amid a diplomatic offensive by Baghdad to have the U.N. Security Council lift the sanctions that have devastated Iraq's economy. The council meets Sept. 18 for its regular 60-day review of the sanctions. But it is not expected to end them despite Baghdad's compliance with council resolutions. Mr. Velayati delivered a message from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani to Sultan Qaboos of Oman. The contents were not disclosed. But diplomats said it included reference to Iran's dispute with the United Arab Emirates over the three-fingered islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Toub in the southern Gulf.

Sharaa tells Israelis to be serious Rabin proposes 3-year phased withdrawal from the Golan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday proposed a three-year withdrawal from the Golan Heights to test Syria's will in making peace with Israel. "These years are necessary to test Syrian intentions over the normalisation of relations before Israel completes its withdrawal," he told military radio. Rabin refused to say how far Israel would withdraw from the strategic plateau, which it captured in 1967 and annexed in 1981. Syria is insisting on a full withdrawal, and Mr. Rabin commented that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad wanted peace but "at his own price."

He added that Israel, which has made peace with Egypt and signed deals with the PLO and Jordan, now had "Islamic extremism" as its main enemy. Syria, however, urged Israel also Tuesday to get serious in their peace talks, which are stalled over Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The blunt message was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa after talks in London with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Asked how optimistic he was about a peace deal, the Syrian minister told reporters: "From our side, we are serious, we are committed to peace. But at the same time we would like to see much more seriousness from the Israeli side."

He said: "We are optimistic if the Israeli government would implement the components of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, if Israel would accept full withdrawal in return for full peace." Mr. Hurd said he thought Syria clearly wanted to move towards a successful conclusion of the three-year-old talks, adding: "We strongly support that and we hope it will not be long." Promising to do his best to accelerate the process, Mr. Hurd said he also backed lifting the European embargo on arms sales to Syria. "We see no justification for retaining it."

Aziz denies contacts with Israel

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraq's deputy prime minister has denied reports that Baghdad had had contacts with Israel aimed at making peace with the Jewish state in return for the lifting of U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. In a signed article in Wednesday's edition of the London-based Al Quds Al Arabi daily, Tareq Aziz said: "There is no basis for the claims about contacts between Iraq and Israel. There is no practical basis for the assumption that such contacts might help in lifting the embargo," he wrote. Iraqi and Israeli officials have denied that a deal is under discussion. But this has not stopped speculation that they may be secretly trying to work out an accommodation. One scenario has it that the talk of an Iraqi-Israeli rapprochement is designed to put pressure on Syria to resume peace negotiations with Israel, which have been stalled since February. Mr. Aziz's article was apparently aimed at scotch-



Tareq Aziz

States, as reported by several newspapers in recent weeks. He noted there have been similar reports of direct Iraqi-Israeli meetings in the past, which were also false. "Similar claims were made in the 1980s during the Iran-Iraq war, based on the notion that Israel was capable of playing a role in ending that war, or securing American aid for Iraq to enable Iraq to end the war," Mr. Aziz wrote. "And at that time, as now, there were claims that Israel was able to help in ending the war, but events proved that such claims were baseless," he noted. "Now there is the question of the unjust blockade against Iraq and the U.S. position, which is the main stumbling block impeding its removal." Mr. Aziz said the United States and Israel have a common objective of weakening the Arab World to make it "loose politically, economically and militarily."

Freed Palestinian prisoners allowed out of Jericho

JERICHO, West Bank (AFP) — Forty Palestinians have been released from confinement in Jericho and Israel has promised to consider allowing more freed prisoners out of the self-rule area. Palestinian officials said Tuesday. The release orders, issued on Monday came two days after some 200 freed prisoners staged a protest in which they burned tyres and blocked a highway. A committee for prisoners released by Israel but restricted to Jericho has also threatened action against Israelis in the area unless their demands are met. Over the last four months, more than 500 Palestinians have been released from Israeli jails on condition they spend the rest of their prison terms in Jericho. Many were convicted of

killing fellow Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel, and were serving life sentences or long prison terms. But most of the 40 who returned to their homes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank had served out their terms, said Mohammad Zakarna, a member of the "Freed, Exiled Prisoners' Committee." He said the joint Israeli-Palestinian security coordination committee had promised another 120 would be sent home soon. Mr. Zakarna said Saturday's protest was part of a campaign to push for the release of at least 5,000 prisoners still in Israeli jails, and for released prisoners with short sentences left to be allowed to go home. "Otherwise, we will take measures against Israelis and Jewish settlers on Road 90," he warned, referring to a highway used by joint Israeli-Palestinian security patrols and by Jewish settlers. "This is a warning not only to (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin, but to (PLO Chief Yasser) Arafat in Gaza as well," he said, refusing to elaborate. Brigadier General Saadi Najfi, head of the Palestinian delegation in the joint security team, confirmed that Israel had "promised to help us solve this problem."

he warned, referring to a highway used by joint Israeli-Palestinian security patrols and by Jewish settlers. "This is a warning not only to (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin, but to (PLO Chief Yasser) Arafat in Gaza as well," he said, refusing to elaborate. Brigadier General Saadi Najfi, head of the Palestinian delegation in the joint security team, confirmed that Israel had "promised to help us solve this problem."

Iraq and Kuwait hold talks over 'missing' Kuwaitis

GENEVA (R) — High-ranking Kuwaiti and Iraqi officials were meeting on Tuesday to discuss the fate of 600 Kuwaitis missing since Baghdad's occupation of the Gulf emirate, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said. It was not clear whether Iraq's delegation provided any clues on their whereabouts during the private talks being held at the Geneva headquarters of the humanitarian organisation. Iraq denies holding any Kuwaitis, but at the last talks on July 1, it pledged to cooperate after Kuwait submitted dossiers on 609 nationals missing since the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

Kuwait called for Iraq to report back its findings within two months on the prisoners of war it allegedly still holds. Riyad Al Qaysi, under-secretary for foreign affairs, headed Iraq's delegation on Tuesday, while Kuwait sent Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, who heads a search for the country's Gulf war missing. "The Iraqi delegation is a high-level one. That is a good thing," an ICRC spokesman told Reuters. "We expect results, but not by any deadline. This is a step in a series of meetings," he added. It was the 10th such session of a special committee formed in 1991 to oversee the release of 70,000 Iraqi and

4,000 Kuwaiti prisoners of war and to trace missing persons. Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, was also taking part in the latest talks, according to an American spokesman. Saudi Arabia, Britain and France are the other members of the special committee which meets under ICRC auspices. Iraq's attendance at the July session was the first since October 1991. The latest talks come as Iraq campaigns to gain support for the removal of crippling United Nations sanctions which prevent Baghdad from resuming vital oil exports or trading normally.

Fonda speaks out on abortion row

LUXOR (AFP) — U.S. actress and U.N. goodwill ambassador Jane Fonda added her voice to the debate over abortion here Sunday on the eve of a controversial U.N. population conference. Ms. Fonda, in Egypt for the conference, said she agreed with U.S. President Bill Clinton that abortion should be "safe, legal and rare." The Vatican and conservative Muslims have charged the conference proposal condones homosexuality and sex on the side marriage. Ms. Fonda added that she and her husband Ted Turner, who owns the U.S. television channel CNN, were "concerned about the issues of population growth" and had helped to prepare the forum. The actress was guest of honour at a specially-organised trip to the southern town of Luxor, organised by Egypt to help revive tourism. She said she felt "extremely safe" on a four-hour visit to town, once the Pharaonic capital of Egypt. Egyptian ministers, South African delegates, Miss Universe and a battery of media people accompanied her on the tour. Egyptian officials hope to capitalise on the nine-day population conference to boost the ailing tourism industry, which has been hard hit by a two-year campaign of violence by Islamic militants that has killed more than 400 people. Ms. Fonda visited the pyramids of Giza and described her trip as "a dream." As for Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen from India has already visited the pyramids and struggled off a threat from the underground Jamaa Islamiyah to disrupt the conference by attacking foreigners.

Rwandan ballet to perform for 1st time since war

KIGALI (AFP) — The new Rwandan National Ballet troupe will this week perform the country's first organised cultural event since the bloody three-month civil war, officials said Monday. But Wednesday's performance of traditional Rwandan music and dance, taking place in Kigali's Franco-Rwandan Cultural Exchange Centre, will be as much an exercise in diplomacy as an artistic endeavour, with the central African nation's new government and France both hoping it will break the ice in frosty bilateral relations. Links between France and the former rebels of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) that now holds power have been strained over Paris's traditional support for the country's Hutu majority and its policing until Aug. 22.

Alpine iceman 'was Italian'

LONDON (R) — Otzi the 5,300-year-old iceman found in an Alpine glacier three years ago was an Italian, say researchers who studied the moss he was used as toilet paper. The iceman was found sticking out of the glacier by two climbers in the Otztal Alps on the Austro-Italian border. He had been freeze-dried 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) above sea level. Dr. James Dickson, of Glasgow University in Scotland, says he has solved Otzi's nationality after researching the moss found round the body. "Mosses were often used — until recently — for wiping. People would grab a clump and use it later. That is what Otzi must have done," Dr. Dickson told the Observer newspaper. "Among all the clothes and belongings that were scattered around Otzi's body were various clumps and traces of moss."

Solvent abuse is 2nd biggest U.K. adolescent killer

LONDON (R) — Solvent abuse is the second biggest killer of British adolescents after road accidents, according to a report published Monday. It kills three people every week, most of them aged between 14 and 16, and 38 per cent of those who die are first-time users, Good Housekeeping magazine said in its survey. Figures cited by the magazine showed that 13 per cent of children had tried sniffing solvents by the time they were 15.

Palestinian police detain 21 Islamists

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian police detained 21 Islamic Jihad activists in Gaza City early on Tuesday, Palestinian sources said.

Israeli security sources said the arrests were in response to an ambush in the Gaza Strip on Sunday in which an Israeli soldier was killed. The Islamic Jihad said its members killed the soldier as part of a "holy struggle to liberate Palestine."

The Israeli sources said a Palestinian injured in Sunday's shootout led police to the detainees but Palestinians denied the report.

Palestinian sources said the detainees, among them the spokesman for the group, Abu al-Harith al-Shami, were not involved in violent activities. They were in a moving car killed an Israeli soldier and wounded others patrolling near Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

Israeli troops have

drawn from most of the Gaza Strip as part of an Israeli-PLO deal but Islamic groups oppose the deal and have vowed to continue their armed struggle against the Jewish state.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned this week that the attacks against Israelis endanger the peace agreement.

"The absence of firm and effective action by the Palestinian authority to halt the terrorism of the extremists opposed to the peace process will create problems on Israel's part in continuing the agreement," Mr. Rabin said following Sunday's attack.

"I am beginning to feel that they (the Palestinian Authority) are going too far," he told state radio.

"I am not in the habit of making threats, but we insist, if the authority does not change its way of dealing with terrorism, it will be very hard to go on."

Algerian authorities free 2 journalists

ALGERIERS (AFP) — The Algerian authorities have freed two journalists who were supporters of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) after holding them for two years without charge, lawyers close to the fundamentalist movement said Tuesday.

Salah Gouami and Loucif Kiassa were freed Saturday after spending two years in Al Harrach prison in the east of the city.

Mr. Gouami, a former journalist with Algerian television, edited the FIS daily "El Moudjahid" (The Saviour).

before his arrest, while Mr. Kiassa was a television journalist.

The lawyers meanwhile said the authorities would in the next few days release Abdelkader Hachani, the former head of FIS's provisional executive bureau, on bail.

A lawyer for the FIS leaders, Ali Zouita, is also expected to be released. Another leading member of FIS, Othmane Aissani, was freed on bail Aug. 28, the lawyers said. His liberation has already been announced in the press.

Egypt, U.S. sign economic agreement

CAIRO (RI) — President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore signed an economic partnership agreement on Tuesday to increase American investment in Egypt.

Mr. Gore told a news conference the United States was firmly committed to help economic growth and development in Egypt.

"The two countries can now work together and move ahead with their warm relations," he said.

"We agreed to initiate a new partnership for economic growth and development, the goals and mechanisms which will operate within the framework of existing American aid levels," he added.

Mr. Mubarak said Egypt would continue implementing its economic reform programme to help stimulate economic growth.

"We are still committed to our vigorous economic reform programme because we firmly believe it constitutes the best available option for improving the quality of life for all Egyptian citizens," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Gore signed a statement calling for the formation of a joint economic committee to expand economic cooperation between the two countries.

The statement said Egypt and the United States hoped the committee would "encourage and facilitate private



Hosni Mubarak sector contacts, intensified trade flows, strengthen science and technology cooperation and launch a dialogue on economic policies that will promote growth and development.

The statement said the joint committee would be formally organized in a meeting between senior U.S. and Egyptian officials next month.

"The U.S. and Egypt agree that the climate for economic development in the region is rapidly improving, the moment is at hand for hard work to take advantage of the new opportunities, both sides are encouraged by the prospects and are determined to move ahead vigorously," the statement said.

Mr. Gore said he and Mr. Mubarak also discussed Middle East peace.



U.S. actress and U.N. goodwill ambassador Jane Fonda (L) is escorted by Egyptian stars Yusra (C) and Hussein Fehmy (R) during a visit in the southern town of Luxor, Egypt. (AFP photo).

Rabin ready to invite Hrawi

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin says he is prepared to receive Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in Jerusalem although he does not find him any more likeable than PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"Besides Arafat there are other leaders in the Arab World who are not likeable, such as President Hrawi," Mr. Rabin said in an interview with the Yediot Aharanot for the Jewish new year on Tuesday.

"However, I would be prepared to make peace with them if they came to Jerusalem."

But Mr. Rabin said he would not allow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to visit Jerusalem, even if he asked to do so.

The prime minister added: "The problem with Arafat is not the lack of chemistry between us but our fundamental conceptions of a final settlement."

On Syria, Mr. Rabin suggested Israel would be prepared to accept the Syrian military presence in Lebanon under a peace treaty.

"Under the present situation in Lebanon, I don't know if any government in Beirut can really cope with terrorism in the south without Syrian backing," he said.

Also Tuesday Mr. Rabin accused Japan and Europe of failing to put enough pressure on Iran which Israel blames for Islamic terror across the world.

"The United States are right to favour sanctions against Iran similar to those against Iraq," Mr. Rabin told state radio.

"But I have to say that they have not managed to mobilise support from Japan and European countries, with the exception of Britain."

"Numerous European countries and Japan are helping Iran for economic reasons because billions of dollars of contracts are at stake."

Mr. Rabin repeated charges that Iran is the "terrorist base for extremist Islam" and was behind attack on Jewish or Israeli targets in Buenos Aires and London in July.

He also voiced concern over Chinese and Russian nuclear assistance to Iran as well as North Korean missile sales in the region.

Israel has urged the United States to block the export of long-range missiles from Pyongyang to Syria and Iran.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rabin has written to some 4,000 U.S. rabbis asking them to praise Israel's peace accord with the Palestinians during their Jewish New Year sermons this week, The Washington Post said.

The letter was accompanied by a 48-page "Resource Guide for the High Holidays" providing sample sermons and stating that ceding territory is consistent with Jewish law if it saves lives.

The move is seen as the opening salvo of a campaign

to drum up support among American Jewish leaders, whom the Rabin administration feels have been less than supportive of the Middle East peace process, the daily said.

Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton are scheduled to hold a live satellite teleconference next Monday fielding questions from American Jews at 70 sites around the United States.

"It helps people feel that this is a leadership in Israel that doesn't look at peace naively, but looks at peace in a hard-nosed way," Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich told the Post.

Besides the Sept. 13 peace agreement last year between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, signed at the White House, the recent accord with Jordan and normalisation with Arab countries, such as Morocco, Oman, Tunisia and Bahrain has helped in "sending home the message that something very profound is changing," Mr. Rabinovich said.

Wearing a white yarmulke, Mr. Clinton attended a ceremony Monday for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, where he is vacationing. He expressed hope for continued progress on peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Clinton exchanged greetings with Rabbi Joshua Plant, who said Mr. Clinton may be the first sitting U.S. president to attend a Rosh Hashanah service.

Palestinian television on the air

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — The Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation has begun showing test programmes ahead of the official opening scheduled for Saturday, officials said.

"For the moment we are working with what we have: a television truck donated by France and two studios equipped by Denmark and Germany," PBC official Hisham Makki told AFP.

"We will open from September 10 between six and 10 o'clock in the evening and that will include two news bulletins," he said.

Mr. Makki said the service was planned for shortly after the launch of Palestinian autonomy in May.

"But the Israeli authorities set up obstacles and have been slow giving us a channel to broadcast on. That's why (PLO chairman Yasser) Arafat decided that we would start transmitting like a private station on a UHF channel."

The Palestinian Authority intends to build a relay station in Khan Yunis to enable transmissions to be picked up across the strip, home to some 800,000 Gazans.

Among test programmes was Mr. Arafat opening a school in Gaza City for the new term which was shown Sunday night.

'4 Iraqis seek refuge in Kuwait'

KUWAIT (R) — Four Iraqi men have climbed border fortifications to seek refuge in neighbouring Kuwait, a newspaper reported on Tuesday.

"They confessed they had infiltrated Kuwait to escape the security police of the cruel Iraqi regime," Al Watan newspaper said. It did not say when or in what part of the desert frontier the breach by the men aged between 17 and 22 took place.

Kuwait, to try to keep out infiltrators from former occupier Iraq, last year dug a three-metre deep and five-metre wide trench along the 207 km (130 mile) border.

The government plans to add floodlighting and sensors.

For at least two years after

the 1991 Gulf war the Iraqi 1990-91, Iraq repeatedly crossed the border to scavenge weapons and equipment left behind in battlefields, seek work or food or smuggle arms and alcohol.

An interior ministry spokesman could not be reached for comment on Al Watan's report which quoted one of the four as saying security police had recently cut off the ears and branded the foreheads of 2,000 military conscripts for unspecified offences.

The newspaper did not elaborate. Iraq, trying to stem rising crime, recently announced the introduction of drastic punishment including amputation of the hand or foot for thieves.

'\$17b target for population funding possible'

CAIRO (AFP) — Wealthy and developing countries are headed towards pledging the \$17 billion the United Nations has requested for programmes to help curb birth rates in poor nations, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

"The thought is that the total level of commitment to population programmes by the year 2000 should be in the neighbourhood of 15 to 17 billion dollars," said Timothy Wirth, undersecretary of state for Global Affairs at the State Department.

"We are moving rapidly in that direction," Mr. Wirth said on the second day of the U.N. International Conference on the Population and Development.

He talked of funding increases by the United States, Britain, Australia, Japan and Germany.

Mr. Wirth hoped the target would be set by the end of the conference, due to wind up on Sept. 13.

"But no final numbers have been agreed to," and there have been no commitments, he cautioned.

But a Western expert said earlier that growing alarm over U.N. proposals means "it is likely that the conference will not make any financial commitments."

Ahead of the conference on Sunday, Japan, the United States and the European Union (EU) led the field in opposing some of the draft proposals setting out proposed levels of funding to back the 20-year action plan to

stabilise world population.

Under the proposals \$17 billion will be needed in 2000 to fund programmes for family planning, maternal health and stopping the spread of sexual diseases.

Two-thirds of the funding will have to be met by the countries themselves, with the rest put up as aid by rich countries.

The document also proposes that each country should devote 20 per cent of its public spending to welfare programmes, while donor countries should set aside 20 per cent of their aid budget for such plans.

The proposals have raised alarm among some of the rich, donor countries who are "still very doubtful about the figures produced by the U.N.," the expert said.

"They seem to correspond more to the needs of the various specialised U.N. agencies than to those of the population."

Donor countries are also keen to "keep some room for manoeuvre in how they hand out aid and many have rejected the figure of 20 per cent."

But before the conference, several donors did promise to increase their levels of aid to support moves on population growth. Germany pledged \$2 billion between 1995 and 2001, and Japan \$3 billion spread over seven years.

The United States, the EU and Scandinavian countries have also signalled an increase in their budgets.

S. Arabia wants more petrochemicals investment

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia called Monday for more domestic private investment in its petrochemicals industry and said it would make setting up plants easier.

"The government invites citizens and national companies to continue and increase investment in the (petrochemical) industry," said a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency after the Saudi cabinet's regular weekly meeting.

"(It) invites international companies that make petrochemicals and welcomes their participation in setting up these industries in the kingdom in partnership with citizens and Saudi companies," the statement added.

"The responsible government bodies will make it easier to set up (petrochemicals projects) and encourage a greater number of citizens to take part in them," it said.

Saudi Arabia has built up a sizeable petrochemicals industry in recent decades, helped by cheap and abundant feedstocks from its oil and gas fields.

The Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) accounts for five per cent of world petrochemicals production as well as producing other goods like fertilisers and steel.

SABIC is 70 per cent owned by the state and the rest by Saudi and other Gulf Arab investors, and operates 15 joint venture complexes with Western and Japanese firms.

Aziz denies contacts

(Continued from page 1)

One of the most persistent reports circulating in the Arab World is that Iraq will take some 400,000 unwanted Palestinians from Lebanon in return for Israeli help in getting sanctions lifted.

Israel's reports say, wants to prevent as many Palestinians as possible from returning to their territories, established by the September 1993 peace accord between the PLO and the Jewish state.

In a statement issued Tuesday, a London-based Iraqi opposition figure, Saad Jabr, claimed that the Baghdad regime, dominated by the minority Sunni Muslim sect, has started moving some four million people, Shiite Muslims and others, out of central Iraq to make room for Sunni Palestinians to bolster the regime's grip on that part

of the country.

Mr. Aziz said that those behind the reports of secret contacts "say that since the decision to lift the embargo is in U.S. hands, and since the U.S. decision is in the hands of the Jewish lobby, and the Jewish lobby is with Israel... therefore, if you want to change the U.S. position you have to reach the Jewish lobby."

"This can be done only through Israel, or with Israeli consent. This is... the justification given by those spreading the rumours about contacts between Iraqi and Israeli officials."

"I, for one, don't believe that America's decision-making process is in the hands of the Jewish lobby."

Mr. Aziz stressed: "Clearly, Israel has no interest in lifting the siege on Iraq, just as it had no interest in ending the Iran-Iraq war."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Get to work to welcome millions — Cousteau

CAIRO (AFP) — French environmentalist Jacques-Yves Cousteau said Tuesday the world should accept the inevitable population boom and get on with the job of preparing a decent future for the billions to come. "We will be 10 to 12 billion, I welcome them all. Let's roll up our sleeves and prepare a decent coming for them," he told AFP at the U.N. population conference that opened here Monday. "It is not a question of resources, we have to reorganise society according to this number which is inevitable," Mr. Cousteau told AFP. "Let's get to work, instead of complaining," he added.

Moi urges 'seriousness' in Sudanese talks

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi called on negotiators in Sudan's civil war Tuesday to show greater seriousness "because the longer we continue to deliberate, the more lives and property continue to be wasted or lost." Addressing the opening session of the fourth round of Sudanese peace talks here, Mr. Moi urged the envoys to "take courage and decide one way or the other." After the speech the delegates representing Sudan's government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) began two days of talks under the chairmanship of Kenyan research, technical training and technology minister Zachary Onyonga.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ... Tao Tao
17:30 ... N.B.A. sport
18:30 ... News in French
18:45 ... Le Journal de L'Histoire
19:00 ... News in Hebrew
19:30 ... P.M. Magazine
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Bob
21:10 ... The Nature of Things
22:00 ... News in English
22:20 ... The Nanny
23:10 ... Poldark

PRAYER TIMES

04:49 ... Fajr
06:09 ... (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:34 ... Dhur
16:09 ... 'Asr
19:01 ... Maghrib
20:20 ... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 610740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632795
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624500
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De La Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622464
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiut International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18/32
Aqaba 23/37
Deserts 16/35
Jordan Valley 25/39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31 Aqaba 35. Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 39 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abbas Hakim 895446
Dr. Shabaneh Al Izzah 753774
Dr. Shataw Abu Zayed 757902
Dr. Mohammad Al Nabawi 819213
Firas pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Shinecan pharmacy 649045
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 63041
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 637777
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661191
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661191
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 880100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

EMERGENCIES

Foot Control Centre 637111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/352
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn

642841/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 642462
Malbas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiesani 664171/4
Palestine, Shmiesani 664131
University Hospital 843402
Al-Musasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Army, Al-Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 02240/50
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963323
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)96732
IBRAHIM:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27273
Jin Al-Nafes Hospital (02)37101
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

642841/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 642462
Malbas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiesani 664171/4
Palestine, Shmiesani 664131
University Hospital 843402
Al-Musasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Army, Al-Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 02240/50
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963323
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)96732
IBRAHIM:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27273
Jin Al-Nafes Hospital (02)37101
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 ... Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 ... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 ... Larnaca (RJ)
10:25 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
15:35 ... Toronto (RJ)
16:00 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 ... Madrid (RJ)
18:25 ... London (RJ)
18:25 ... Istanbul (RJ)
18:25 ... Athens, Bangkok (RJ)
22:30 ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:45 ... Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45 ... Beirut, Paris (AF)
09:15 ... Beirut (ME)
10:10 ... Rome (AZ)
12:15 ... Larnaca (CY)
13:00 ... Yemen (YV)
14:00 ... Jeddah (SV)
14:30 ... Cairo (MS)
16:15 ... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
16:20 ... Athens, Sharjah (AH)
22:30 ... Dubai (EK)
00:25 ... Amsterdam (KL)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:10 ... Damascus (AZ)
11:25 ... Larnaca (CY)
11:30 ... Yemen (YV)
11:30 ... Jeddah (SV)
13:05 ... Cairo (MS)
13:30 ... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus ... 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ... 600/400
Banana ... 600
Banana (Mukammal) ... 600
Cabbage ... 110/60
Carrot ... 340/250
Cauliflower ... 250/150
Cucumbers (large) ... 180/120
Cucumbers (small) ... 380/240
Eggplant ... 200/150
Grapes ... 600/300
Grapes (Hilwan) ... 850/600
Guava ... 360/240
Lemon ... 260/180
Marrow (large) ... 240/120
Marrow (small) ... 480/320
Mushrooms ... 140/90
Onion (dry) ... 280/240
Potato ... 300/220
Peas ... 900/600
Pomegranate ... 340/220
Tomato ... 120/80
String beans ... 700/500
Watermelon ... 160/100

Home News

is seek
in Kuwait'

our Iraqi
order for-
refuge in
t a news-
Tuesday,
they had
o escape of
the "Al
id. It did
that part
der the
aged be-
k place.
keep out
occur
dog a
five -
long the
border.
plans to
nd sen-
ars after

the 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's 1990-91 occupation. Iraqi repeatedly crossed the border to scavenge arms and equipment left behind on the battlefields, seek work or food or smuggle arms or alcohol.

An interior ministry spokesman could not be reached for comment on a Watan report which quoted one of the four as saying security police had recently cut off the ears and branded the foreheads of 2,000 male army conscripts for unspecified offences.

The newspaper did not elaborate. Iraq, trying to stem rising crime, recently announced the introduction of drastic punishment including amputation of the hand for thieves.

get for population
ing possible'

Wealthy
tries are
ging the
ted Na-
or prog-
b birth
a U.S.

Two-thirds of the funding will have to be met by the countries themselves, with the rest put up as aid by donor countries.

The document also proposes that each country should devote 20 per cent of its public spending to welfare programmes, while donor countries should set aside 20 per cent of their aid budget for such plans.

The proposals have raised alarm among some of the rich, donor countries who are "still very doubtful about the figures produced by the U.N.," the expert said.

"They seem to correspond more to the needs of the various specialised U.N. agencies than to those of the population."

Donor countries are also keen to "keep some room for manoeuvre in how they hand out aid and many have rejected the figure of 20 per cent."

But before the conference, several donors did promise to increase their levels of aid support moves on population growth. Germany pledged \$2 billion between 1995 and 2001, and Japan \$3 billion spread over seven years.

The United States, the EU and Scandinavian countries have also signalled an increase in their budgets.

HS IN BRIEF

Income millions — Cousteau

French environmentalist Jacques-Yves Cousteau said the world should accept the boom and get on with the job of preparing for the billions to come. "We will welcome them all. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work," he told a conference that opened here on a question of resources, we have to according to this number which Cousteau told AFP. "Let's get to work," he added.

Business' in Sudanese talks

Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi in Sudan's civil war Tuesday to show because the longer we continue to live and property continue to be pressing the opening session of the peace talks here. Mr. Moi urged courage and decide one way or the other. The delegates representing the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Sudanese government met for two days of talks under the aegis of the United Nations and the African Union.

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus	9:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg	
Apple	100-120
Banana	150-180
Carrot	100-120
Cauliflower	100-120
Cucumber (large)	100-120
Cucumber (small)	100-120
Eggplant	100-120
Garlic	100-120
Grapes	100-120
Grapes (Hilwani)	100-120
Guava	100-120
Lemon	100-120
Mango (large)	100-120
Mango (small)	100-120
Mulberry	100-120
Onion (dry)	100-120
Onion (wet)	100-120
Pepper (hot)	100-120
Pepper (sweet)	100-120
Potato	100-120
Pumpkin	100-120
Tomato	100-120
String beans	100-120
Watermelon	100-120



CHAIRING AN ANNUAL MEETING: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday chairs the annual meeting of the Innerwheel Club, during which Iltam Ghantous was elected as the club's president for a one-year term. Ms. Ghantous succeeds Ania Al Tayeh, who reviewed the club's social and cultural activities over the year. The club's general assembly discussed the organisation's financial and administrative reports and endorsed them (Petra photo)

Islamists press Morocco, Oman to release prisoners, end peace talks with Israel

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan's most powerful Islamist group called on Morocco Tuesday to halt moves towards diplomatic relations with Israel.

The Islamic Action Front (IAF), political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, also implored Oman to release some 200 extremists jailed on charges of sedition.

The calls by the front, which holds 16 seats in the 80-seat Parliament, were made in two petitions addressed to Morocco's King Hassan II and Oman's Sultan Qaboos and delivered to their embassies in Amman Tuesday. The statements were made available to the Associated Press.

The front said it was surprised by announcements Thursday that Morocco and Israel would open liaison offices in Tel Aviv and Rabat, thus making Morocco the second country after Egypt to open diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

"These steps towards normalisation with the Jewish enemy violate God's strictures," the front said in its letter to King Hassan.

It said Jordan, a Muslim nation, "is angered and concerned by these normalisation steps and we... appeal to Your Majesty to stop supporting the Jews."

King Hassan's moves towards normalisation of relations with Israel were a major boost to Israeli hopes for swift diplomatic gains from the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process.

Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood, like other Islamist factions in the Arab World, is adamantly opposed to the peace negotiations and advocates Israel's destruction.

In its petition to Oman's Sultan Qaboos, the front urged him to release Muslims held since mid-July and "for their return to their natural lives, to continue their service to their country."

The Islamists, many of them high-ranking military and police officers, allegedly planned a wide-scale campaign to sow unrest against the Omani government.

In a clear reference to Egypt and Algeria, the front called on Oman to avoid the fate of governments which chose to act against Islamists with large-scale arrests and show trials, and subsequently "faced poverty, lack of security and the spread of civil war."

Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood is publicly sympathetic to Islamists who have launched violent campaigns against Middle East governments.

However, the Brotherhood is careful to protect the strong political clout it holds in Jordan, and limits itself to pressing its views through political channels to avoid a confrontation with government.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Switch to winter time Friday night

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will switch to winter time as of midnight Friday, according to a communique issued by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. Clock will be set back one hour to run two hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT).

Envoy presents credentials in Brunei

DAR EL SALAM (Petra) — Sultan Hassanul Bulqieh of Brunei Tuesday received the credentials of Louay Khashman, Jordan's non-resident ambassador to the predominantly Muslim island. Mr. Khashman conveyed to Sultan Bulqieh the best wishes of His Majesty King Hussein and voiced Jordan's interest in enhancing bilateral relations. Sultan Bulqieh expressed his keen interest in strengthening bilateral relations in all fields. The Sultan said he looks forward to receiving His Majesty King Hussein in Brunei, and asked Mr. Khashman to convey his best regards to the King.

Cabinet approves officers housing loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday approved a plan to grant the Public Security Department and the Armed Forces JD 10 million as a loan to be re-lent to their personnel including officers and troops to help finance their housing projects. According to a statement from Finance Minister Sami Gamhoh, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will provide the JD 10 million sum to the Housing Bank which will administer the loan. The government will guarantee the loan, according to the statement.

Pope cancels Sarajevo visit

(Continued from page 1)

is, called it a postponement and said no new date had been set. The Vatican said the decision was prompted by concern for the safety of the residents of Sarajevo.

Violations of Sarajevo's 20-kilometre heavy weapons exclusion zone are frequent, and smaller weapons, including some anti-aircraft machine-guns, are not banned from the area. Snipers are an omnipresent threat.

Maj. Dacre Holloway, a U.N. spokesman, said Bosnian Serbs fired 11 artillery rounds east of Sarajevo, inside and in violation of the exclusion zone, between 11:30 a.m. and 11:50 a.m. Tuesday.

He said it was the heaviest artillery attack in the zone since it was created in February under threat of NATO air strikes following the Sarajevo marketplace massacre.

Mr. Holloway also reported continual gunfire in the airport area between 9 a.m. and 12:35 p.m. He described the shooting, which did not shut down the humanitarian airlift, as "intimidation fire."

Charity ride boards Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The annual Al Hussein Society charity train ride will take place on Sept. 29.

The trip is organised to support Al Hussein Society for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

The train will depart Thursday morning from Al Mahata station en route to Daba'a castle, in the middle of the desert. Passengers will return to Amman the same evening.

The proceeds of this day trip will go directly to support the physically handicapped said a spokeswoman at the Marriott Hotel, which has worked closely with the society in organising this trip.

Al Hussein Society was established in 1972 conducts vocational training workshops and contains a rehabilitation department that includes physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy.

Expert reviews advances in treating infertility

By Rima Cortbawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although sterility can affect both men and women, "concentration has been recently centred on curing the male because previous studies frequently focused on the woman and many solutions were reached," said Zeid Kilani, obstetrician and gynaecologist specialised in the field of fertility.

In his lecture at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Monday night, Dr. Kilani presented the latest developments in treating male sterility. He also discussed the procedures of freezing embryos and sperm (for future use) in Jordan. In addition, he gave an account of the recent developments in cloning (reproducing an exact copy of an organ or a tissue).

"In my estimation, not less than 15 per cent of married couples in Jordan suffer from infertility, which sometimes occurs at later stages in life," said Dr. Kilani. Thus freezing male sperm is a very useful procedure especially in cases of anticipated future sterility, he said.

Sterility in men can result from either restricted sperm activities, blockage in the urethra (the tube through which sperm-containing semen is propelled by wall contractions) caused by infections or the absence of a sperm duct (through which sperms move out of the testes) from birth, according to Dr. Kilani.

Curing sterility caused by the absence of the sperm duct was, until recently, the most difficult of all tasks. However, current sophisticated medical techniques can now overcome this problem by cutting a very small piece of the male testis tissue, from which sperm can be extracted by an extremely fine needle, according to Dr. Kilani.

These sperm can then be injected into the cytoplasm (cell fluid) of the female sex cell (egg or ovum), by intra cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), a technique that involves fertilisation (IVF) by micro-manipulation of the egg.

"This is naturally done via tremendously delicate instruments and under magnification of at least 400 times," said Dr. Kilani.

The process of "picking the egg" is done with the help of modern ultra-sound facilities, according to Dr. Kilani.

A probe "that looks something like a small microphone" is inserted through the female vaginal walls so that the internal walls of the uterus (womb) and the egg-producing ovaries can be seen.

This probe is linked to the ultrasound unit which contains a screen that shows clearly the inside of the woman's reproductive organs — so that, according to Dr. Kilani, the target can be identified.

"The target in this case is the Graafian follicle which is present in the ovaries and surrounds the follicular fluid that contains the ovum," said Dr. Kilani.

Once the target is evident on the screen, a moving needle embodied in a channel within the probe is directed towards the follicle. It penetrates the vaginal walls reaching the ovary and pierces the follicle "aspirating follicular fluid," according to Dr. Kilani.

The fluid is then examined by embryologists under the microscope to locate the ovum and isolate it.

Aspiration must be done 2 hours before the follicle bursts (releasing the ovum from the ovary to the fallopian tube) which can happen from day 10 to day 15 of a woman's menstrual cycle, depending on the woman's age and previous manipulations of her genital organs, according to Dr. Kilani.

"This necessitates the accurate monitoring of the female body and growth of the follicle during that period (of ovulation)," said Dr. Kilani.

Ovulation is kept under ultrasound and laboratory examination by observing the level of the hormone estradiol, which is secreted by the follicles during the stages of their development.

"The level of this hormone reflects the maturity of the egg enabling us to know the date at which to pick it," said Dr. Kilani.

The process of picking the ovum can be carried out while the woman is under local or general anaesthesia, depending on her pain threshold, according to Dr. Kilani.

Increasing the chances of success in IVF techniques involves giving the woman human menopausal gonadotrophin (HMG) hormone, which induces ovulation artificially, programming her body to produce more than one ovum.

So, when these ovum are inseminated, their fertilisation produces more than one embryo.

"Some of these embryos are incorporated into the mother's womb, and, in case of failure to achieve pregnancy, the rest are frozen and reserved for future attempts," said Dr. Kilani.

After an egg is inseminated, it is kept in an incubator providing it with appropriate conditions such as a suitable temperature, level of humidity and gaseous content.

"After around 18 hours the egg is examined for evidence of fertilisation (fusion of the sperm and egg nuclei), and after 24 hours, cell division is checked. Observing the formation of the embryo is probably one of the most pleasant experiences of embryologists," Dr. Kilani said.

However, success rate for fertilisation is 60 per cent, "but we hope to increase it to 80 per cent," said Dr. Kilani. This explains why several ova must be available for insemination.

The developed embryos are then loaded into the mother's uterus, without anaesthesia. "Loading up to 3 embryos increases the percentage of pregnancy from 17 to 30 per cent," said Dr. Kilani. Two weeks after embryo transfer, pregnancy tests are carried out.

Concerning cloning, which is done by taking a small part of the developing embryo, at the early stages of mitotic cell division, and placing it in similar surroundings as in vivo (inside the body) to enhance development, Dr. Kilani said, "it is expected to be done on humans within a year or so."

Kingdom is prepared to assist PNA in establishing national institutions — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday met officials from the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and voiced Jordan's readiness to extend help to the Palestinians in establishing their national institutions.

Speaking at a meeting with Abdul Aziz Al Haj Ahmad, the transport minister in the self-rule area, and Fayez Zeidan, head of the Palestine Civil Aviation Authority, Dr. Majali said Jordan would provide the Palestinians with expertise in transport and other sectors and help them attain the final stage of independence in a bid to enhance the peace process in the region.

The Prime Minister listened to the Palestinian officials' briefing on steps taken in the self-rule areas of Palestine in conformity to the declaration of principles signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

Later, Minister of Transport Samir Kassar who was present at the meeting said the discussions were part of the on-going coordination efforts between the ministries of transport on both sides.

He said the Palestine National Authority is planning to establish a civil aviation authority and a department of meteorology in the self-rule areas.

Upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, the Ministry of Transport will extend all possible help to the Palestinians in these fields, added Mr. Kassar.

For his part Mr. Haj Ahmad said the Palestine National Authority was determined to pursue cooperation with Jordan in the transport and communications sectors and would continue to seek the Kingdom's expertise in these areas.

The two sides explored various ideas related to civil aviation and ways to promote



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday meets with officials of the Palestine National Authority (Petra photo)

the land transport sector, said the Palestinian official, noting that the Palestine National Authority was coordinating plans in these areas with the group of donor nations.

Jordanian-German officials to discuss water, agriculture projects — envoy

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and German officials plan to hold meetings in Bonn in late October and early November to discuss German-financed projects in the Kingdom with a focus on water and agriculture, according to a visiting senior official of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Herbert Sahlmann told the Jordan Times in an interview Tuesday that the meetings, which follow His Majesty King Hussein's recent talks in Bonn with government leaders, will cover a review of existing projects and future programmes.

At about the same time, officials from both sides

will separately discuss rescheduling of Jordan's debts to Germany which amount to nearly DM 436 million, said Dr. Sahlmann.

Part of this debt (DM 29.5 million) has already been converted from loan into a grant, and of the grant is being used by the Kingdom to finance environment protection programmes, Dr. Sahlmann said.

As the current president of the European Union (EU), Germany is also advocating the amendment of an EU-Jordanian 1972 trade agreement to open the way for increased Jordanian trade with the European union countries, according to Dr. Sahlmann.

The German official said talks on amending the trade agreement are expected in the coming months, and a deal could be reached by early 1995.

Dr. Sahlmann came to Amman Monday to prepare for a visit here by Wighard Haerdtd, secretary of state at the ministry of economic cooperation and development, in order to meet officials at the ministries of Water and Irrigation, Agriculture, and Industry and Trade, and is hoping to have an audience with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Dr. Sahlmann.

He said the talks will cover German assistance to these ministries in implementation of development projects.

According to Dr. Sahlmann, he and Mr. Haerdtd were originally planning to visit the occupied territories and the self-rule areas in Palestine, but they were forced to change plans and will fly to Tunis Wednesday afternoon because of the bridge closings.

Asked about German assistance to the Palestine National Authority (PNA), Dr. Sahlmann said Germany last week formally opened an office in Jericho to oversee German assistance to Palestinian projects. He said this office has already financed a water project in the Nablus area

benefitting 12,000 residents and another in an area east of Jerusalem.

He said his country plans to carry out other artesian water well projects in the areas of East Jerusalem for the benefit of the Arab residents there and is continuing to explore other areas where it can help individually in addition to the financial and other commitments made to the Palestinians within the EU.

Dr. Sahlmann said that a tour by the EU troika (the past, present and future EU presidencies) early next month of Jordan, Palestine and other countries of the region is aimed at gathering additional information about the regional situation and progress in the peace talks.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.
- SONG FESTIVALS**
- Children's song festival at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.
 - Second intifada song festival (with the participation of Al Rawabi and Al Bara' bands) at the Professional Association Complex, Shmeisani at 5:00 p.m.
- STORY RECITAL**
- Story recital by Nabli Abdul Karim at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7:30 p.m. (Tel. 695291).
- EXHIBITIONS**
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Sa'd Al Ta'i, Talel Issa and Mahdi Al Assadi at Al 'Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 644531).

- Exhibition of photographs on nature and environment at the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature.
- Exhibition of Palestinian heritage at the Vocational Association Complex, Shmeisani.
- Exhibition of household items at the Amman International Motor Exhibition, Airport Road (Tel. 827408).
- Exhibition of paintings by selected Iraqi artists at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).
- Exhibition of Jordanian-made commodities at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).
- "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.
- Exhibition of paintings entitled "Fantasia II" (depicting Islamic style) by Iraqi artist Widad Orfali at Orfali Art Gallery, Unm Uthman (Tel. 826932).
- Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space 1" by Samia Zarou at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luwibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

Clinic Opening

Dr. Vasken Bilemjan
UCLA / Boston University Graduate

Announces The Opening Of His
State - Of - The - Art Clinic For The
Practice Of
Cosmetic & General Dentistry

MEMBER
- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF COSMETIC DENTISTRY.
- ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY.
- AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION.

Amra Center 2nd floor - Suite 24
Tel: 865574

Australia stunned by MP's killing

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's top investigators Tuesday took charge of the hunt for the killers of New South Wales MP John Newman, a leading campaigner against gang violence among Asian immigrants.

Mr. Newman's killers are believed by police to have been waiting for him as he stepped outside his home Monday night to pull a tarpaulin over his car, a nightly routine after it had been paintbombed three times in recent months.

The 47-year-old opposition Labour MP was shot twice in the chest with a handgun as he stepped outside his home Monday night to pull a tarpaulin over his car, a nightly routine after it had been paintbombed three times in recent months.

Mr. Newman had received many death threats linked to his fearless crusade against gangs who terrorise the large Vietnamese community in his constituency of Cabramatta, one of Australia's most turbulent ethnic communities.

In 1991 a bullet was fired through the window of his office.

But Tuesday's crime nevertheless stunned a country which had not known the

assassination of a politician for more than 70 years.

Mr. Newman died only four days after he told Labour colleague Ted Grace: "The bastards are still out to get me."

Mr. Grace, whose federal electorate includes Mr. Newman's constituency said he had urged Mr. Newman to back off from his campaign, "but he wouldn't."

"He was like a tiger," said Mr. Grace. "He just wouldn't let go."

State Police Commissioner Tony Lauer told reporters police surveillance of Mr. Newman's fortified home had been provided for many months after he reported a number of incidents, but had been removed with his agreement three weeks ago.

Mr. Lauer said the man who has investigated some of Australia's most infamous murders, Detective Chief Superintendent Mike Hagan will head a team of investigators based at Cabramatta.

Chief Hagan led the investigation that snared the celebrated "granny killer" and the murderer of Sydney heart surgeon Victor Chang.

Prime Minister Paul Keating, visiting Japan, described the killing as "a disgraceful

and cowardly act" and pledged the full resources of the federal government to bring those responsible to justice.

New South Wales State Premier John Fahey was "shocked and saddened" by news of the assassination, which he said was "not the Australian way."

"It says that as a nation we have now unfortunately gone into particular crime that has not been heard of before in this country," Mr. Fahey said.

Mr. Newman, a karate black-belt and something of a political champion in the Cabramatta community, was no stranger to tragedy. His pregnant wife Mary and only child David died in a car crash 14 years ago.

He had installed surveillance cameras and other security equipment at his home after his car was paintbombed.

Police said a Ford Falcon seen racing from the house about 9:30 p.m. Monday was thought to have been involved, but they had only a vague description of two people believed to have been involved in the shooting.

A car which had been

found matching the description of the getaway vehicle had yielded potentially "fruitful evidence."

Police Chief Inspector Alan Leek told reporters Mr. Newman's fiancée had been bending at the front of the car attaching the tarpaulin when the first of four shots was fired by one man using a handgun.

"Ms. Wang saw the vehicle and has been able to assist us with a description," he said, but added that without her glasses, she had only been able to tell police the man who fired the shots had been wearing "some sort of head covering."

She had ran screaming for help to a neighbour who raised the alarm, two constables who arrived shortly afterwards tried to revive him and did momentarily, but he died shortly afterwards.

In an interview with AFP last year, Mr. Newman talked about numerous threats to his life and he said Asian people were being terrorised in their homes by gangs with no respect or fear of Australian laws.

One caller had said in an Asian accent: "You dead, Newman. We kill you."



French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur (centre) receives his Luxembourg counterpart Jacques Santer (left) in Paris. Mr. Santer will replace Jacques Delors as EC president in January 1995 (AFP photo)

EU set for fight over key posts

BRUSSELS (R) — Jacques Santer, compromise choice to head the European Union's Executive Commission, now faces the tricky task of juggling key portfolios among the men and women who will take office with him in January.

The Luxembourg prime minister, who was selected by the 12 member governments after heated rows over a successor to Jacques Delors, has embarked on a tour of EU capitals to gauge opinions about the new lineup from the same governments, which must also nominate his colleagues.

It will be a closely scrutinised test for Mr. Santer, a low-profile conciliator who stands in stark contrast to Mr. Delors, the dynamic, long-serving Frenchman he will replace.

What emerges will help set the Commission's long-term policies in areas ranging from trade to telecommunications liberalisation and monopoly legislation.

Sixteen commissioners, many of them new, will take up their posts in January with Mr. Santer. As many as four more will join when and if Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden enter the bloc next year as part of the EU's expansion programme.

Assigning briefs is officially done by consensus among the commissioners. In practice, however, it is carried out by the president deftly balancing the interests of member states and the egos of the commissioners themselves.

Mr. Santer's task is being made all the more difficult by the European Parliament, which is demanding he set his team and its portfolios by November so that commissioners can be grilled by relevant committees in U.S. congressional-style hearings.

There is also a growing belief that he proposed enlargement of the union is creating an unwieldy commission with too many commissioners for too few substantial jobs. Small countries nominate one member each and large states have two.

Among those appointed so far is Sir Leon Brittan, re-nominated by London along with newcomer Neil Kinnock, the former opposition Labour Party leader whose wife, Glenys, is a recently elected member of the European Parliament.

Sir Leon wants to keep his high-profile job as trade chief and, if possible, add foreign political relations.

That is the current domain of Hans Van Den Broek of the Netherlands, whose is not expected back because of a change in government at home. He is also considered a top candidate for secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

But Mr. Santer is unlikely to be able to combine two weighty portfolios for Sir Leon given the larger commission.

Germany's commissioners will be decided after a general election there on Oct. 16. The opposition Social Democrats want trade union leader

Monika Wulf-Mathies, and the liberal Free Democrats, member of the current coalition, want to reappoint Industry commissioner Martin Bangemann.

This would leave German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats without a commissioner.

If Mr. Bangemann does return, he favours a new high-technology portfolio to be spun off from his current job. He also wants various research programmes to go with it, giving him control of some purse strings as well.

Some commentators say this may appeal to Mr. Santer because it would allow the remains of Mr. Bangemann's industry portfolio to go to Edith Cresson, a former French Socialist prime minister.

France, which has had the presidency of the commission with Mr. Delors for 10 years, is keen to get an influential economic portfolio, such as industrial policy.

Mr. Cresson was appointed Monday with Yves Thibault de Silguy, an adviser to conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Among other likely or definite returnees are Belgian Karel Van Miert and Spain's Marcelino Oreja and Manuel Marin. Others, however, know or suspect they are on the way out.

Greece is replacing Yannis Paleokrassas, with Christos Papoutis, a 41-year-old economist and Euro-MP.

Ramos sets image-building trip to Europe

MANILA (R) — President Fidel Ramos flies to Europe Thursday on a mission to repair what a senior official says is the Philippines' image as a land of kidnappers, coup plotters and foreign paedophiles.

Mocked in the Manila press for his penchant for travelling, the 66-year-old former armed forces chief will visit Italy, Spain, France, Belgium and Germany in his 11th foreign trip since taking office 26 months ago.

Eager for foreign investment, the Philippines is struggling to shed its image of political instability, lawlessness and as a haven for so-called sex tourists.

"I think you can summarise the image of the Philippines as a country of coups d'etat, Smokey Mountain and paedophiles," Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo told reporters.

Smokey Mountain is a smouldering hill of garbage in Manila that has been the

home for decades of about 20,000 squatters. Mr. Ramos is trying to develop the area into an industrial zone.

The president hopes to help change foreign perceptions, officials said, by proclaiming the economic progress the Philippines has made, such as wide-ranging reforms which are gradually opening up the economy to foreign participation in almost all sectors.

The stock market has also enjoyed 18 months of strong performance and economic growth is now more than five per cent.

"We have a long way to go," Mr. Romulo said. "We have to generate awareness to provide new business opportunities for the European Union in the Philippines."

About 20 joint venture agreements are expected to be signed between European investors and the estimated 100 businessmen represent-

ing small and medium-scale industries who will join Mr. Ramos. Trade Undersecretary Cesar Bautista said.

In Paris, Filipino and French officials could sign an agreement involving joint production of military equipment to help modernise the ill-equipped Philippine army.

Mr. Romulo said the European Union is a growing source of official development assistance (ODA) and a promising export market.

Europe's ODA commitment to Manila rose by 145 per cent to \$197 million in 1993 from \$80 million in 1992.

In Rome, Mr. Ramos is to meet Pope John Paul II. The meeting comes at a time of strained relations between the Protestant president and the country's Roman Catholic Church over his campaign to promote wider use of contraceptives to curb a 2.4 per cent annual population growth rate.

Quebec separatists steamroll to election victory

MONTREAL (AFP) — Quebec separatists head into the final campaign stretch this week calm and confident that their commanding lead in public opinion polls will be confirmed at the voting stations next Monday.

Analysts agree that the Parti Quebecois (PQ), led by hardline secessionist Jacques Parizeau, is a shoo-in in the race that was expected to end nine years of dominance by the federalist Liberal Party.

The PQ leader is on "automatic pilot" and is cruising towards an easy victory, analysts said here as the campaign entered its final stage.

The influential Toronto-based Globe and Mail newspaper summed up the predictability of the election outcome by stating in an editorial Monday that a Liberal victory would be the greatest surprise since Harry Truman's win in the 1948 U.S. presidential race.

The only uncertainty surrounding the vote is the scale of the PQ victory, which some analysts predict could claim between 80 to 85 seats in the 125-seat National Assembly.

The separatist party has been leading the Liberals by more than 20 points among French speakers, who make up more than 80 per cent of voters.

The Liberals' support base is spread across some 40 electoral districts in western Montreal that are predominantly English-speaking.

Quebec's electoral system which allows for a single-ballot majority vote should also widen the gap between separatist seats in the provincial parliament and federalist gains, analysts say.

Mr. Parizeau, 64, an economics professor who served as finance minister under Parti Quebecois founder Rene Levesque, has already begun discussing plans for what he terms as the "post-September 12" period when his party is expected to form the government.

Mr. Parizeau has said he plans to call a referendum on Quebec independence but most public opinion polls confirm that while a majority of Quebecers want a separatist government, they do not want straight-out secession from Canada.

But Mr. Parizeau, who maintains his lifetime goal has been to achieve independence for Quebec, has waged a cautious campaign, avoiding interviews with the press that could lead to a potential embarrassment.

Liberal Party leader Daniel Johnson, who replaced Premier Robert Bourassa in January after he became ill, has stuck to economic issues, in particular employment, deliberately snubbing demands for constitutional change.

Mr. Johnson hoped to follow the footsteps of national Liberal leader Jean Chretien, who won federal elections in October 1993 on a platform that promised voters jobs and an improved economy.

Kim Jong-Il keeps world guessing about takeover

TOKYO (AFP) — Two months after the death of Kim Il-Sung, signs of the imminent consecration of his son Kim Jong-Il as successor are growing, although the political situation in North Korea remains shrouded in mystery.

The death of Pyongyang's "great leader" from a reported heart attack on July 8 took the world by surprise.

Once the funeral services were over on July 20, all eyes turned toward his 52-year-old son, designated since 1974 as successor.

Weeks have now passed with North Korea's propaganda machine outlining the "dear leader's" innumerable qualities. Still, the official announcement of his elevation has not come, fuelling speculation about why the transition is taking so long.

A reference to the haggard face of Kim Jong-Il during the funeral, a warning to enigmatic "treacherous plotters" in the North Korean media and then the appearance of anti-Kim tracts in the western embassy compound in Pyongyang in August all reinforced rumours of resist-

ance to the world's first Communist dynastic handover of power and on the state of the dear leader's health.

Diplomats in Tokyo familiar with North Korean affairs all admit that it is impossible to know what is going on in the corridors of power in Pyongyang.

But they maintain that there are no evident signs of a power struggle or organised resistance to Kim Jong-Il.

"There's hardly room from an organised opposition movement in a country like North Korea where any dissent is quickly uncovered and just as quickly eliminated," said one diplomat.

"In addition, the succession has been carefully prepared for such a long time. Kim Jong-Il has had all the time he needed to put his own people in key positions."

The scenario now most widely accepted is that Kim Jong-Il will respect a 100-day mourning period before being formally named as the leader of North Korea, a country of 22 million people which claims to be a workers' paradise but is totally isolated and economically on the rocks.

Ozone crisis to peak in late 1990s—U.N. agency

GENEVA (R) — Earth's protective ozone layer, which develops holes that are blamed causing some cancers and declining crop yields, could be at its thinnest towards the end of this decade, the U.N. weather agency said Tuesday.

But, in its annual scientific assessment of ozone depletion, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said international action to reduce the gaps should help the layer recover by the middle of the 21st century.

"The peak global ozone depletions are expected to occur during the next few years," said a WMO report based on a study by scientists and ozone specialists from 33 countries.

The layer, which absorbs harmful radiation from the sun but which has been increasingly pierced by holes caused by human-produced chemicals, "will be most susceptible around the turn of the century," it added.

The current ozone decrease was occurring at a rate of four to five per cent decade at middle latitudes in the northern and southern hemispheres.

WMO Secretary-General Godwin Obasi, in a comment on the report, said the document confirmed the precarious state of the ozone layer and he called for continued efforts by all states to halt use of ozone-depleting CFCs and other chemicals.

Under an agreement reached in Montreal in 1987, developed and developing countries agreed to phase out CFCs — chlorofluorocarbons which have been widely used in aerosols and refrigeration systems — by 1999.

They later brought the date forward to 1995, but many specialists doubt that target can be met although CFC use has dropped dramatically in many industrialised nations.

The report, a summary of which was issued by the

WMO in advance of publication later this year, said international efforts to reduce the impact of ozone-depleting substances were beginning to show results.

The rates of build-up in the atmosphere of these substances had slowed down due to reductions in global emissions which held out the hope that these efforts could lead to the eventual elimination of ozone depletion.

From the turn of the century, if effective control efforts continued, "the levels of ozone-depleting chemicals are expected to decrease slowly and the ozone layer is expected to recover in about 50 years," the summary said.

But, in spite of the control measures, aimed also at bromine compounds, unprecedented low quantities of global ozone had been observed in recent years, according to the report.

The record low level was in the last few months of 1992 and the start of 1993 when a huge hole in the layer developed over the Antarctic and the lowest-ever levels were recorded over populated regions of the northern hemisphere.

Experts believe this was due to the eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines in 1991, which released substances increasing ozone's vulnerability to human-made chlorine and bromine.

The report said methyl bromide, naturally produced by oceanic evaporation, had been identified as one of the major threats to ozone. It destroys ozone at a rate 60 per cent of that at which the feared CFCs acted.

Three potentially major human sources of methyl bromide had been identified — soil and post-harvest fumigation, the burning of forests and crop stubble, and the exhausts of automobiles using leaded petrol, it said.

Nigeria oil union suspends strike

LAGOS (AFP) — The clandestine leadership of one of Nigeria's two powerful oil unions, dismissed by the junta, has suspended a strike it called two months ago to press for an end to military rule, its spokesmen said.

M.G. Dabibi, spokesman for the PENGASSAN union, told the independent Vanguard newspaper that the union's ousted leaders met in secret Monday and decided to suspend the strike, the daily reported Tuesday.

They also threatened to renew the strike call if the military-led government of General Sani Abacha failed to release recently imprisoned union leaders and meet oil workers' economic demands.

Most oil workers have already gone back to work, according to industry sources, while normal fuel supplies have been restored to the economic capital Lagos, which had been crippled for weeks by the strike that began on July 4.

The dismissed leadership of PENGASSAN, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, wants the junta to pay arrears owed to its partners in the industry and to restore order in the south-eastern oil-producing regions of the country, where oil workers have been attacked by local residents, Mr. Dabibi said.

PENGASSAN would not be satisfied only with the release of jailed opposition leader Moshood Abiola.

PENGASSAN and its sister union, the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), launched the strike to pressure the regime to stand down and hand over power to Mr. Abiola, the presumed winner of presidential elections held on June 12 last year and then voided by the military.

He said his administration was fighting "some very, very powerful enemies of change" in trying to overhaul the U.S. economy, and urged the election of a Congress willing to set aside partisanship and turn to the "good old American values of working together in partnership."

"This administration is working with the tools we have to rebuild the American economy in partnership, not sitting on the sidelines and not promising you miracles, but promising you progress," Mr. Clinton said.

And I ask you as you leave here today to reward people in public life who will say 'yes' to America, who will look for ways to come together, not be divided, who will ask you to be courageous enough to make the tough decisions," he said.

Before his speech, the president boarded the USS Laboun, an Aegis class destroyer under construction, for a brief tour. He shook hands on the stern with some shipworkers, then went up three flights to the bridge where Dave Albert, project director, showed him around.

Mr. Clinton, who interrupted a 12-day vacation at Martha's Vineyard Island in neighbouring Massachusetts for his political outing, was greeted by an editorial in Maine's largest newspaper calling for firm leadership.

"...We urge President Clinton to look beyond his motorcade escorts, beyond the cranes and buildings at Bath iron works. For the next two years, citizens of this state depend on his administration to provide it," the Portland Press Herald said.

Mr. Clinton's ability to respond to the newspaper's

plea will depend to large degree on how the Democrats fare in the Nov. 8 elections.

Thirty-five of the 100 seats in the U.S. Senate are at stake in the voting, as are all 435 seats in the House of Representatives. America's Labour Day holiday is the traditional start of serious campaigning even though many candidates have been battling for months.

Democrats currently control both bodies, but the president's party historically loses congressional seats in a midterm election. Mr. Clinton, whose popularity has been skidding for months, would find it harder to govern if the Congress that convenes next year is more Republican.

In his speech, he cited bipartisan support for the anti-crime bill that passed Congress after a bitter struggle last month as the way the political system should function.

"We need more examples of what we had with the crime bill, where we broke through gridlock and a few brave Republicans stood up to their leadership and said, 'the American people want a solution to the crime prob-

lem, it's not a partisan problem, it's an American problem and we're going to work on it together'," Mr. Clinton said.

Bath iron works, the site of his speech, is a 110-year-old shipyard on Maine's Kennebec River where many warships have been built.

It was selected partly because of an innovative labour-management partnership designed to help convert from defence to commercial shipbuilding in competition with countries like South Korea and Japan.

But Maine is also the scene of a closely-watched Senate race for the seat of Democratic leader George Mitchell, who plans to retire later this year. The race pits Democratic Congressman Thomas Andrews against Republican Congresswoman Olympia Snowe.

White House officials said Mr. Clinton, who later Monday resumed his vacation with a round of golf in blustery weather, would return to Washington Wednesday. He planned to travel to New Orleans Friday to address a Southern Baptist Convention.

Armed men steal jewelry worth \$1.25 from Tiffany's

NEW YORK (AFP) — Two armed robbers broke into the Tiffany jewelry store in the town New York on Monday and made off with watches, bracelets, necklaces and other items worth an estimated \$1.25 million, police said.

The robbery took place on Fifth Avenue between the early morning hours when the men wearing ski masks tied up three security guards and a fourth that arrived later, then made off with about 300 pieces of jewelry. The robbers also took surveillance tapes. "They were very professional," said police Captain Sal Blumenthal.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

Police said employees were being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An earlier estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials, police said.

U.S. gives Cuban

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Cuban refugees in the rear deck of a plane Chander in the Florida

Armed men steal jewelry worth \$1.25 million from Tiffany's

NEW YORK (AP) — Armed robbers broke into a Tiffany jewelry store in New York City on Tuesday, stealing jewelry worth an estimated \$1.25 million, police said. The robbery, which took place on Fifth Avenue, began in the early morning hours. The men wearing ski masks and armed with guns, tied up three security guards and a fourth that arrived later, then made off with 300 pieces of jewelry. Robbers also took some very professional-looking police uniforms. Police said employees were questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An estimate said the jewelry was worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after the police said.

Woman arrested after child killed for her eyes

DHAKA (AFP) — A 19-year-old woman was arrested Monday after her 10-year-old son was killed in a traffic accident. The woman, who was driving a rickshaw, was accused of hitting the child. She was taken to a police station and charged with negligence. The child was taken to a hospital but died shortly after the accident. The woman's lawyer said she was innocent and that the accident was a tragic mistake.

35 million mark jackpot finds no taker

BONN (AFP) — Millions of Germans and thousands of foreigners groaned with disappointment as a super-jackpot of 35 million marks (about \$10 million) went unclaimed Monday. The jackpot was the result of a lottery draw. The winning ticket was not sold in Germany, but in a neighboring country. The lottery organizers said they were looking for a winner.

'Last supper' to be restored

MILAN (R) — The last supper, one of Leonardo da Vinci's most famous frescoes, will undergo major restoration work starting this week. The fresco, which is located in the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, is in poor condition. The restoration project is expected to take several years. The church authorities said they were excited about the project.

Noises off-stage continue to blight Paris Opera

PARIS (AFP) — Events off-stage at the Paris Opera are more troubling than the stage itself. The opera house is facing financial difficulties and management problems. The director, Daniel Barenboim, has been criticized for his handling of the company. The opera house is a symbol of French culture and its future is uncertain.



Cuban rafters sit on the rear deck of the Coast Guard cutter Chandelier in the Florida Straits. The Coast

Guards continue to pick up about one thousand rafters a day (AFP photo)

U.S. gives Cuba new 'flexible' offer on immigration

NEW YORK (R) — The United States has come up with a new proposal on increasing the number of legal immigration visas granted to Cuban refugees in an effort to reach an accord with the Havana government that would stop the flood of boat people. The proposal is part of a series of offers made by the U.S. to Cuba. The U.S. wants to see a reduction in the number of Cubans arriving in the U.S. by boat.

Cubans received visas in the last 12 months. In turn, the government of President Fidel Castro is expected to stop the uncontrolled flow of migrants trying to reach the United States in rickety vessels and by other means. So far this year, more than 30,000 people have left Cuba, most of them in the past month. Reversing previous U.S. policy, President Bill Clinton has sent them to the U.S. naval base on Guantanamo on the southwestern tip of Cuba. The new U.S. offer was delivered to Cuban officials by Michael Skol, head of the U.S. delegation in the talks. He spent less than an hour Monday talking to Ricardo Alarcon, a former Cuban foreign minister and head of the Cuban team. They met alone at Cuba's mission to the United Nations. "We showed some flexibility," one administration official said. "We tried to look at what they had proposed as well as the materials that we had already put out. We think we have come up after some fairly lengthy discussions with something we think is a reasonable approach, one that gives them a unique status in terms of migration opportunities," he added.

In Havana, Cuba's Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina told reporters that the talks were "stalled with no positive signals to note." He chastised the United States for refusing to discuss what he called the root cause for the migration: The 32-year-old trade embargo against the Caribbean island. Havana wants Washington to fix a date for talks on broader issues that would include the embargo it says is starving its economy. But U.S. officials say their new and previous proposals are restricted to the migration crisis.

About 250 demonstrators protested outside the Cuban mission Monday, chanting "Cuba si, Castro no." inside the mission, two large speakers blared Latin music down to the crowd to drown out the shouts. In related developments: By late Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard had picked up another 1,073 Cubans from rafts and inner tubes in the Florida Straits, compared with 1,179 Sunday. So far in September, the Coast Guard has rescued 5,389 Cubans. Haitian refugees at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo attacked U.S. soldiers with stones over the weekend, apparently upset at their continued incarceration. There are more than 20,000 Cubans and 14,000 Haitians at the base. Four boats carrying 65 Cubans landed in eastern Mexico over the past few days off the Yucatan peninsula. The Mexican News Agency, Notimex, said all wanted to go to the United States. They were given temporary shelter in Cancun. Cayman Islands Governor Michael Gorrie said he would start repatriating about 400 Cuban boat people following failed talks with the United States. He said the United States had not given them a safe haven in Guantanamo or elsewhere and they could not stay in the Caymans, a British territory catering to finance an expensive tourism.

Rwandan troops gradually take over 'safe zones'

KIGALI (Agencies) — Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated government has sent forces into the U.N.-protected "safe zones" in the southwest, home to 1.2 million Hutus fearful of reprisals, the U.N. envoy to the central African state said Tuesday. Ambassador Shaharyar Khan told reporters units entered the towns of Cyangugu, Gikongoro and Kibuye Tuesday in a gradual takeover of the zone set up by French troops two months ago. Three liaison officers from the victorious Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) army prepared the way. They entered the zone Monday and have been attached to U.N. forces there. "As of today, platoons (30-strong units) have gone into the main centres (Cyangugu, Gikongoro and Kibuye) of the zone," Mr. Khan, a veteran Pakistani diplomat said. He added: "They are there mainly to secure sensitive sites and they will also be giving security to important people such as cabinet ministers who will now be moving in more visibly."

Thousands of Rwandan refugees are continuing to flood into Tanzania from eastern Rwanda, a U.N. refugee spokeswoman said in Geneva Tuesday. Officials at the Ngara camp in Tanzania reported 10,000 to 15,000 refugees arriving each week, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume said. In the last month and a half, 110,000 Rwandans have arrived there. "These people are ill and suffering from malnutrition. They have fled because they feel in danger and have nothing to eat," Ms. Berthiaume said. Meanwhile, the Zairean government has instructed legal authorities in the town of Goma to start arresting Hutu militiamen caught trying to stop Rwandan refugees returning home, a Zairean government expert said Tuesday. "It is essential to neutralise those who are making speeches against repatriation in the camps," said the expert, who played a key role in last week's negotiations between Zaire and the new Tutsi-dominated administration in Kigali. The expert, who asked not to be named, said plans were also underway to provide refugees wishing to leave, who often fall victim to lynch mobs, with armed escorts to the border. During last week's meeting, which produced little more than commitments by both sides to keep tackling outstanding problems, Zaire and Rwanda set Sept. 30 as a target date for the departure of the more than one million Rwandan refugees on Zairean soil. Diplomats and aid officials say that with militiamen and former Rwandan soldiers running an efficient intimidation campaign and many refugees apparently settling down for a long stay, the date is unrealistic. The expert said that soon after Sept. 30 Zairean peasants would want to cultivate their fields and schools were due to reopen after the summer break. The expert said Zaire was determined to complete the disarmament of 28,000 Rwandan soldiers who are still in uniform and living in units and move them at least 150 kilometres from the border.

Mr. Khan said sensitive sites included radio relay stations, factories, many of which have been looted, and the prefectures, centres of civilian administration. It was not immediately clear how the Hutu population in the area had reacted to the arrival of RPF troops, who many Hutus fear will make revenge for the killings of an estimated one million people, mainly Tutsis, by Hutu militiamen. In the countdown to the French pullout last month, fears were expressed of a mass exodus of people from the safe havens to neighbouring Zaire, where hundreds of thousands of Hutus are camped in squalid conditions. Last month, Mr. Khan told a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi that RPF soldiers had committed distribution killings on returning Hutu refugees. But he said the incidents were without consent of the former rebel movement's high command and that authorities had clamped down and arrested individuals involved. A U.N. military spokesman in Rwanda Major John Plant said RPF deployment to the area was being done under U.N. auspices and said the Hutus had no

A Rwandan woman takes care of her baby at a refugee camp in Bukavu, Zaire. Over a million Rwandans died during the civil war (AFP photo)

Tension mounts in Bosnia as attacks on U.N. rise

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Serb and Muslim forces have stepped up attacks on U.N. forces, the U.N. said Tuesday, escalating tensions in the Bosnian capital less than two days before a planned historic visit by Pope John Paul II. Meanwhile in Zagreb a U.N. spokesman said the Vatican would decide Tuesday afternoon if the Pontiff's one-day trip will go ahead. The attacks, branded "provocations" by the U.N. officials here, came amid increased fears for the Pope's safety during Thursday's visit, and after warning Monday from the top U.N. commander in ex-Yugoslavia, General Bertrand De Lapresle, that he could not absolutely guarantee his security. Observers here have interpreted U.N. comments on security, and its decision to go public over the airport attack, as part of a campaign to convince the Vatican that the security threat comes from both sides and that the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) cannot provide cast iron guarantees. Announcing the Vatican's imminent decision, Michael Williams, spokesman for Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, said in Zagreb that UNPROFOR had told the Pope of its extreme concern over his visit, but stressed it would do everything to ensure his security.

Mr. Williams said the visit would probably take place as the Pontiff was determined to make the trip. Ivan Ceresnjak, head of Sarajevo's Jewish community said: "I'm afraid he will be prevented from coming by the organisers, by UNPROFOR," because "it is really a great responsibility to guarantee the safety of such a person in a city like Sarajevo." Earlier, UNPROFOR spokesman Lieutenant Sebastian Paquier said troops from the mainly-Muslim Bosnian government army and rebel Serbs fired into the air over incoming transport aircraft Monday, the first such incident this month. U.N. troops have increasingly been targeted by both Serb and Muslim gunmen in recent days, with the U.N. blaming Bosnian snipers for an attack on Danish soldiers pitching camp at the Zetra ice-rink complex just 300 metres from where the Pope is due to say mass. Lt. Paquier said the airport shootings were a clear "provocation ahead of the arrival of the Pope."

"Different gunmen from the two (warring) parties fired in the air during aircraft movements," for the first time since Sept. 1, he said. Although the airport has been placed on green alert it remains open to military and civilian flights. Serbs and Muslims gave a verbal promise on Aug. 14 to end attacks and threats against the airport, yet a simple telephone call by a Serb liaison officer last week forced two U.N. aid planes to turn round. The promise was broken Saturday when Bosnian gunmen fired three grenades at a French armoured car in the airport zone, and Serb gunmen fired automatic weapons at a second U.N. vehicle. UNPROFOR spokesman Commander Eric Chaparon said Tuesday that "provocations against UNPROFOR continue," adding that "the number of firing incidents remained high though there was a slight decrease" on the 815 violations recorded Monday.

Meanwhile three rockets, possibly fired by Croatian rebel Serbs, crashed into the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Bihac, killing three people and wounding over 60, many of them children, U.N. officials said. The U.N. Protection Force said the 262mm rockets launched at the Bihac towns of Cazvin and Buzin Monday exploded in the air, raining cluster bombs down on civilian areas. The origin of the fire had not been determined because multiple barrel launchers have a range of 50 kilometres. The UNPROFOR suspected rebel Krajina Serbs in nearby Croatia who have sporadically shelled the Bosnian government enclave in support of Bosnian Serb forces laying siege to the remote northwestern enclave since June 1992.

French anti-sniping teams returned fire in the Western district of Sup around midday against Serb forces, and a shot was fired over the vehicle of a Canadian liaison officer in the nearby Rajlovac district, but it was not clear who had fired the shot. Later an anti-tank rifle grenade exploded near a U.N. observation post in the Jewish cemetery area in central Sarajevo, a zone where a French soldier was shot dead by a sniper later last month. Japan's opposition, currently a tangle of parties and factions, said Tuesday it plans to unite behind a reform platform that calls for cutting back on overgrown bureaucracy and overhauling the country's "warped" education system. The decision accelerates the trend in Japan toward a system of two or three major parties as in Britain or Germany. And it could threaten Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama if the alliance is successful in painting him as the leader of a corrupt old guard. On Tuesday, all the opposition parties, excluding the small Communist Party, officially launched discussions on when they should unite as a single party. The day before, they announced the new party's basic principles. Commentators warned that the planned alliance could still break down as

Japan opposition to unite behind reform platform

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's opposition, currently a tangle of parties and factions, said Tuesday it plans to unite behind a reform platform that calls for cutting back on overgrown bureaucracy and overhauling the country's "warped" education system. The decision accelerates the trend in Japan toward a system of two or three major parties as in Britain or Germany. And it could threaten Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama if the alliance is successful in painting him as the leader of a corrupt old guard. On Tuesday, all the opposition parties, excluding the small Communist Party, officially launched discussions on when they should unite as a single party. The day before, they announced the new party's basic principles. Commentators warned that the planned alliance could still break down as

negotiators work out specifics. But the decision brings to a new stage the political realignment that began last year when the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lost power for the first time since 1955. After three changes in government, the LDP regained power this June, but only by uniting with its longtime rival, the left-leaning Socialists, and installing Socialist leader Murayama as prime minister. The surprise LDP-Socialist alliance, which has scored reasonably well in opinion polls, left disarray in the opposition camp of six parties and two factions of independent legislators. Mr. Murayama cemented his ties with the LDP by renouncing most of the Socialists' basic leftist policies, agreeing for example that Japan's military is constitutional. Mr. Murayama's about-face received formal party approval this Saturday at a special Socialist

convention. Seeing Mr. Murayama's staying power, rival kingmaker Ichiro Ozawa quickly moved to sew up the differences in the opposition. He insisted that they all needed to unite into a single party to fight the LDP under a new election system, which makes it difficult for small parties to win seats in parliament. Although Mr. Ozawa's strong-arm tactics remain unpopular among Japan's consensus-oriented politicians, Tuesday's agreement means he has won a key battle. If Mr. Ozawa's party is able to get off the ground, it will greatly simplify Japan's political structure into two major groups: The current government vs. the new party. What is less clear is how the two groups will distinguish themselves from each other on issues, especially since most of the key opposition leaders, including Mr.

Ozawa, are themselves former Liberal Democrats. The opposition groups are portraying themselves as the true reformers, saying the 70-year-old Murayama is part of the old guard that seeks to protect inefficient Japanese industries and an overgrown bureaucracy. "The key players of the old... system have openly joined hands to preserve existing interests. The current administration is desperate to stay in power, even if it means postponing what must be done," said an opposition appeal issued Monday. The anti-Murayama alliance said it wants to "shatter the reliance of politicians on bureaucrats" and promote deregulation, something U.S. officials have demanded as a way of helping American products in Japan. It also called for reform of Japan's rigid educational system, whose competitive exams, it said, "tend to produce warped, monolithic people."



Soldier of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev inspect a burning APC of the opposition force in the town of Argun, Chechnya. The presidential forces took complete control of

Argun, 20 kilometres east of the capital, after fierce fighting erupted overnight in the town of 20,000 inhabitants (AFP photo)

Dudayev defiant on Chechnya's 3rd year of 'independence'

GROZNY, Chechnya (AFP) — The leader of the breakaway Russian Republic of Chechnya vowed Tuesday to fight "to the end" for full independence as his forces prepared new attacks against strongholds of his Moscow-backed opponents. Speaking to a crowd of several thousand people gathered to mark Chechnya's third anniversary of self-proclaimed independence, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev exclaimed: "A people that is not free, is not a people." "Give us the strength to take our struggle for independence to the end," he cried as the crowd roared its approval and armed followers loosed off several rounds of automatic weapons fire into the air. The celebrations came two days after Mr. Dudayev loyalists captured the town of Argun, 20 kilometres east of Grozny, from opposition militia.

Chechen officials said Tuesday that as soon as the independence celebrations were over, Mr. Dudayev planned to launch a final military drive against remaining opposition strongholds. Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general, declared independence from the Russian Federation in 1991 and has been a political thorn in Moscow's side ever since. Relations between Moscow and Grozny took a sharp turn for the worse in recent weeks after the Russian government stepped up verbal attacks against Mr. Dudayev and began backing an opposition government, the "Interim Council," led by Uram Asturhanov. The capture of Argun late Sunday came as a much needed victory to the Chechen leader, whose people are growing impatient with the economic hardships brought about by the breach with Russia.

Checkpoints at both ends of Argun were manned by troops loyal to Mr. Dudayev early Tuesday, with minimal damage visible other than a few grenade bursts on buildings in the town centre. Dadielbey Tutayev, the area commander in Argun, told AFP that no warplanes or artillery were used in the operation. He claimed the opposition militia lost seven dead in the battle for the town and that its leader, Ruslan Labazanov, had fled to territory held by followers of the former Russian parliamentary speaker, Ruslan Khasbulatov, who is also seeking to topple Mr. Dudayev. Civilians interviewed in Argun appeared genuinely pleased that Mr. Dudayev had regained control in the town. Standing on a podium in the central square of Grozny sporting his trademark dark suit, black homburg and moustache, Mr. Dudayev

watched as the presidential guard, Chechen Interior Ministry troops and other armed units goose-stepped past Soviet-style. They were followed by religious teachers in traditional dress and students from Grozny's Islamic University, who threw their fists in the air and cried "Allahu Akbar" as they marched past the Chechen president. Marchers carried signs declaring "Dzhokhar, we're with you," while a placard above Chechnya's tiny parliament building proclaimed: "President Dudayev — symbol and guarantee of freedom and independence for the Chechen state." Three opposition parliamentary deputies from Lithuania attended the march past in solidarity with Mr. Dudayev. "The situation here is like Tibet, that is why we support Chechnya's independence," said one of the deputies, Algirdas Patackas.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Balance is key word

AS THE Cairo U.N. Conference on Population and Development heads for more and more compromises on most of the controversial issues dividing the conferees, the international community should not lose sight of the fact that the dangerous growth of world population needs to be checked and controlled. There is little doubt that if the population of this small planet continues at the rate it has been doing over the past century, the moment will come when there is not enough resources or room for people to live a decent life free of crime, social and economic problems and above all, armed conflicts. It is estimated that the inhabitants of Earth would explode to double the existing number of more than 5 billions to 10 billions, in less than half a century. This means that an enormous number of people would be competing for space, raw material and economic, social and political opportunities. If this does not mean more and more conflicts and human-made disasters, we do not know what does. Since there is a consensus on this proposition and what remains is how to attain a balanced world population to a level that is viable in every sense of the word. We can understand and sympathise with religions, traditions and cultures that are opposed to abortion as a means to attain the ultimate objective of a controlled growth in world population. We can also appreciate the reservations of many countries about premature sex education for fear that that would encourage child sex. Even the qualms about birth control methods can also be recognised lest promiscuity is encouraged. Yet the 160 odd participating countries must not forget the urgent need to do something about curbing a population explosion that is nothing short of a time bomb ticking away. As Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stated in her maiden speech to the conference Monday, there is a dream that we all share, a dream of "a Pakistan, an Asia, a world where every pregnancy is planned, where every child is nurtured, loved and educated."

This is then the gist of the issue: how to have a sensible parental planning for child-bearing without the need for abortion which admittedly touches upon religious sensitivities among Christians and Muslims alike. We believe this goal can still be met by the Cairo meeting provided the central issue of most concern to us is kept in focus at all times.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ROYAL Commission for Modernisation and Development set up by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, last month faces a serious responsibility at the national level because it has to handle challenges that faced the nation for so long and to provide remedies for so many ills, according to Al Rai daily Tuesday. The paper said that this commission is facing its tasks at a time when Jordan is involved in arduous negotiations with Israel that continues to occupy Arab land and which has the upper hand in economy and military power. At the domestic front the Royal Commission is expected to help the Kingdom, now beset by poverty, unemployment and foreign debts, to rise again and overcome the hardships with the available meagre resources, added the paper. It said that while the country's population annually increases at the rate of 3.4 per cent, the economic growth is declining and this requires huge and concentrated efforts to attract investors for economic schemes. The paper called on all sectors to back the Royal Commission's efforts.

COMMENTING on obvious signs about a resumption of normal ties between Jordan on the one hand and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other, Al Dustour daily Tuesday said that Jordan has always sought good relations with the Arab states before and after the Gulf crisis, which soured these relations. While Jordan is involved in the peace process and while the Arab Nation is standing at a crossroads and facing rapid moving events, Jordan is hopeful that its ties with all Arab countries would be strengthened and solidarity among Arab states reestablished, said the paper. It also noted that the Gulf Cooperation Council members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, including the Qatar and Oman have praised Jordan's efforts towards reconciliation and towards opening a new chapter in inter-Arab relations, and therefore it is quite natural to see relations improving between Jordan and the other GCC members, added the paper. It is also natural for Jordan, added the paper, to feel optimistic about the future and about the resumption of normal ties among Arab brothers who have similar aspirations and face a common destiny.

PNC should not convene in self-rule areas

By Pascal B. Karmy

IN THE exchange of letters on Sept. 9 last year between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the former stated, inter alia, that the "PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestine National Covenant which deny Israel a right to exist, and the provisions of the covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and longer valid."

Consequently the PLO undertakes to submit to the Palestine National Council for formal approval the necessary changes in regard to the Palestine covenant.

"Thus, only the Palestine National Council (PNC) has the power or jurisdiction to amend or abolish the relevant articles of the covenant. And it is to be observed that no specific date has been fixed for the carrying out of this undertaking."

It may be remembered that the Palestinian cove-

nant was drawn up in 1964 when the late Ahmad Shukairy was chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In effect, credit should mainly go to Mr. Shukairy, establishing the PLO as representative of the Palestinian people. At that time Palestinians aimed at regaining their entire homeland, Palestine, from which they were brutally expelled and in which Jews from the four corners of the world came to replace them. Consequently, the Palestinian covenant stipulated in essence for the resurgence of one unitary democratic Palestine state in which Jews, Muslims and Christians live together in peace and harmony with equal rights for all its citizens without dominance of one community or ethnic group over the other.

Specifically Articles 15 and 22 of the covenant provide for the liquidation of the Zionist and imperialist existence in Palestine. Article 19 declares that the partition of Palestine in 1947 and the creation of the state of Israel are void ab

initio. I may digress here to note that most of the recognised international law jurists agree that the United Nations had no competence or jurisdiction to partition Palestine.

With regard to the amendment of the covenant, it is provided that it may be amended by two-thirds of the members of the Palestine National Council. Only Jews of Palestinian origin were considered by the covenant to be Palestinian citizens. Since then, however, such limitation was abandoned and became obsolete. In his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 13, 1974, Mr. Arafat declared that "when we speak of our common hopes for the Palestine of tomorrow we include in our perspective all Jews now living in Palestine who choose to live with us without discrimination."

In 1988, Yasser Arafat declared in Geneva that the provisions of the Palestinian covenant about the elimination of Israel and its replacement by a Palestine

state were "caducous" that is obsolete and non-enforceable and he also accepted United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and specifically recognised the existence of the state of Israel. Lastly came the exchange of letters referred to above between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin. The latter recognised the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

Many of the members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) living outside the territory which is under the Palestine self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho or outside the West Bank (most of whom are living in Jordan, Syria or Lebanon) have already expressed their refusal to attend a meeting of the PNC in Gaza or in Jericho under the shadow of Israeli hegemony although Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stated that Israel will allow them to enter Gaza or Jericho but that some of them will have to go back from where they came. This is obviously humiliating to

the Palestinians and will not be accepted by them. It seems, therefore, that the present most suitable place for the PNC meeting is Tunis.

Consequently, it would be advisable that the convening of the meeting of the PNC and subsequent amendment of the Palestinian covenant should not take place until the following conditions are fulfilled:

1- The Palestine National Authority has been extended to englobe effectively all the Palestinian territories namely, Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This is more appropriate and dignified for the Palestinians.

2- The Israeli army has withdrawn from the above-mentioned territories.

3- All Palestinian prisoners have been released from Israel jails.

4- Elections have taken place which are scheduled to take place on December 15, 1994. The elections will enable 180 members from the Palestinian territory to be admitted to the PNC. In

effect this is the number of members whose names were hidden from the Israeli occupying authorities for fear of reprisal against them prior to the Oslo accord of September 1993.

Yasser Arafat and his advisors should stand firm vis-a-vis the Israeli authorities with regard to the just Palestinian claims. Israeli negotiator is known to be stubborn and crafty and should be met likewise by the Palestinian negotiator. Sometimes the Israeli negotiator builds castles in the air for the Palestinian or Arab negotiator such as grandiose projects or programmes in the future but in fact concedes almost nothing on the ground. In spite of their weak position, Palestinians have still a lot of assets in their favour which if skillfully dealt with or used will enable them to attain real independence from Israel and ultimately declare their own independent state to which they are rightfully entitled as any other nation in the world.

Lebanon should move to make peace on its own

By Fida Nasrallah

JULY ON 25, Jordan formally ended its state of war with Israel by signing the Washington Declaration. The net result of that declaration is that Lebanon and Syria remain the sole Arab confrontation states in a state of war with Israel. There are enough signals to indicate that Syria is seriously interested in achieving a breakthrough with Israel. But in the meantime Lebanon sits idly by, awaiting a regional settlement which it is doing virtually nothing to promote. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher flies to and from the Middle East with neither the inclination nor, indeed, the need to visit Beirut.

Lebanon's policy in its negotiations with Israel has, if anything, gone three steps backwards. Initially, the Lebanese position was predicated on the following premises: Lebanon was willing to sign any agreement with Israel — short of a peace treaty — that was based on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425; Lebanon rejected any linkage with Security Council Resolutions 252 and 338; and Lebanon would not wait until progress was made by the other Arab parties in their own negotiations with Israel.

In contrast, Lebanon's official position today, articulated with increasing vigour since the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has shifted to concentrate on a policy of total coordination with Syria. Lebanon will only move forward if Syria moves forward; it will freeze its negotiations with Israel if Syria freezes its own negotiations; and it will withdraw from the negotiations altogether if Syria decides to withdraw from the negotiations with Israel.

This reversal of Lebanon's position could very well herald a reversal of fortune. The Lebanese government has now boxed itself into a corner whereby it has publicly linked its own unambiguous United Nations Resolution 425 to U.N. Resolutions 252 and 338. This emphasis on total coordination, a policy zealously adopted after most of the other Arab parties had decided to go their separate ways, cannot possibly be in Lebanon's interest. If it goes much further, the Lebanese government will "coordinate" itself into redundancy and the country into virtual oblivion.

Syria demands total coordination

One indication pointing in this direction can be gleaned from the statements of Farouk Al Shara'a, the Syrian foreign minister. During his visit to Beirut in August, the aim of which was to brief the Lebanese government on the results of Warren Christopher's visit, Mr. Al



Shara'a indicated that Syria would not look with disapproval upon the establishment of a joint Lebanese-Syrian negotiation team — even if the team were under the presidency of a Lebanese Mr. Al Shara'a stressed that Lebanon and Syria's interests are so intertwined that it is not possible for one country to negotiate separately from the other. But is this actually true? Are Lebanon's interests identical to those of Damascus and is "coordination" necessarily in Lebanon's interest? For Lebanon, the case for such a policy is far from clear.

Indeed, the incompatibility between Lebanese and Syrian interests is best illustrated by reference to the events of last summer. In July 1993, following Israel's vicious onslaught on southern Lebanon, the Lebanese government had decided to deploy about 3,000 members of the Lebanese army to police the south without prior "coordination" with Damascus. Syrian intervention was swift and deployment was curtailed to merely 300 Lebanese troops in order to ensure that the Lebanese army would not succeed in imposing stability. Adding insult to injury, Damascus rebuked the Lebanese government and accused it of "falling into the Israeli trap" and "succumbing to Israeli demands."

But the real reason behind Syria's fury was the fact that a sizeable deployment of the Lebanese army

southwards, with a mandate to impose security, would constitute the beginning of a virtual implementation of Security Council Resolution 426. This, in turn, could pave the way for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon prior to any agreement over the Golan Heights. What that meant in practice was that Syria would have been denied the chance of negotiating the Lebanese portfolio. In other words, Syria would have been denied the chance to negotiate a deal over Lebanon with Israel that would guarantee Damascus permanent security rights in Lebanon.

Herein lies the danger of total coordination. Seen in this light, coordinated negotiations for a final settlement are liable to be at Lebanon's expense. They are liable to result in Damascus "delivering" the south back to Lebanon for a price. For Lebanon, that price would be a total and permanent abdication of any say in its own foreign, defence and domestic policy. So if the Lebanese government is at all concerned in its country's self-interest, then it must realise that a coordinated policy is not the proper way to achieve this result. It is possible for Lebanon, if it so desires, to move forward on its own. Circumstances have changed since the summer of 1993 and the Palestinians and Jordanians have given up on the benefits of a

coordinated Arab strategy. The Lebanese can start to move ahead independently instead of waiting for Damascus to negotiate away their rights.

Israel cannot be driven out

The central theme of Israel's demands from Lebanon has been that the armed activities of the Lebanese resistance against Israeli targets and their proxies in the so-called "security zone" must be curtailed before it will quit the south. Yet the Lebanese government continues to declare its public support for the Lebanese resistance, composed mainly of members of Hizbullah, on the basis of the principle that the Lebanese cannot be denied their right to resist the occupation. Even though in theory this principle is correct, on purely pragmatic grounds, if the objective of the Lebanese government is to recover control over all Lebanese territory, it must conclude that the activities of Hizbullah will not produce that outcome.

It is now amply clear that the resistance forces do not possess sufficient resources, skill and stamina to push Israel out of the south. It is equally clear that Hizbullah's actions, undertaken without the "coordination" of the Lebanese government, have neither helped to shore up the credibility of that government nor, indeed, to liberate the south. On the contrary, it can be

argued that Hizbullah's activities have succeeded in prolonging the occupation. Moreover, the actions of the resistance forces have surely not served the population of the south. Thus if the moral legitimacy of resisting the occupation cannot be questioned, the morality of the results of this strategy on the unfortunate Lebanese victims is at best dubious. So if there is a trade-off between the principle of armed resistance and the principle of liberation, then surely the latter must be paramount.

The way forward

In order to move ahead, the Lebanese government must declare its willingness to halt Hizbullah's military activities in southern Lebanon. In return, Israel must reciprocate by putting forward a timetable for withdrawal and by publicly renouncing its "negotiating" strategy with Lebanon, characterised by wanton attacks against its civilian population. This will nullify Hizbullah's military raison d'être. It is useful to recall that it is precisely Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon that led to the creation of Hizbullah in the first place. Logically, if Israel is solely motivated by reasons of security, then it must realise that its continued occupation of southern Lebanon is not the proper way to guarantee that security.

To speak of an independent Lebanese position is

not naive. To say that the Lebanese government has no sway over Hizbullah, since the latter is at the beck and call of powers outside Beirut — namely Syria and Iran — is to misunderstand much of the nature of the Lebanese domestic scene and to underestimate its strained relations with Iran. To believe that the Lebanese army is incapable of cracking down on Hizbullah is to overestimate Hizbullah's military power and to minimise the capabilities of the Lebanese army. The Lebanese government can convince Hizbullah that an alternative policy to armed resistance is called for, given that it has clearly failed. Hizbullah can be persuaded to declare a ceasefire as a quid pro quo for a timetable for withdrawal.

Changing the means to achieve the same end is not a retreat in policy. Far from rewarding Israel, Hizbullah will reap the twin benefit of ending the Israeli occupation and ending the suffering of the people of the south. The Lebanese government can wean Hizbullah away from foreign powers by lending its support and exacting a price. This price may very well result in Lebanon's partial liberation.

The writer is a research associate at the Centre for Lebanese Studies, Oxford. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

Features

Happiness women's he create NGO

By Mona Elhawary
Rabat

CAIRO — Peace and justice groups gathered for an "alternative" conference in a hotel in the city of Cairo on Monday. More than 100 NGOs have come to the conference to discuss the role of women in the peace process. The conference is part of a series of meetings organized by the United Nations and the Arab League to promote women's participation in peace-building efforts. The conference will last for several days and will focus on the role of women in conflict resolution and peace-building. The participants will discuss the challenges women face in these areas and will share their experiences and ideas. The conference is expected to be a success and will provide a valuable platform for women's voices to be heard.

The conference is part of a series of meetings organized by the United Nations and the Arab League to promote women's participation in peace-building efforts. The participants will discuss the challenges women face in these areas and will share their experiences and ideas. The conference is expected to be a success and will provide a valuable platform for women's voices to be heard.

Angolan

By Chola Chimbanda
Lusaka

USASA — The United States Africa South Africa (USASA) is a non-profit organization that was established in 1990. It is a 501(c)(3) organization and is registered with the Internal Revenue Service. USASA is a 501(c)(3) organization and is registered with the Internal Revenue Service. USASA is a 501(c)(3) organization and is registered with the Internal Revenue Service.

Europe: A

By Harold Brown
Washington

WASHINGTON — Henry Kissinger, among others, has argued that Clinton administration policies are leading the Atlantic Alliance to an empty shell. This is a serious issue, but it does not mean that the Atlantic Alliance is in danger. The Atlantic Alliance is a vital part of the world's security architecture and it is essential that it remain strong. The Clinton administration is committed to the Atlantic Alliance and will continue to support it. The Atlantic Alliance is a vital part of the world's security architecture and it is essential that it remain strong.

Features

le areas

and will not
them. It
re, that the
stable place
meeting is

it would
at the con-
ferring of the
the Palesti-
should not
the follow-
re fulfilled:

me National
been ex-
be effective-
terri-
Gaza Strip
nak, includ-
tem. This is
te and dig-
estinations.
l army has
the above-
ories.

ian prison-
leased from
have taken
scheduled
December
nbers will
nctions from
territory to
the PNC. In

on its own



bulldoz-
needed in
upation.
tions of
es have
ed the
south.
guinacy
impation
ed, the
sults of
enforc-
isms is
if there
een the
l resist-
diple of
ely the
unout.

ard
ahead.
transit
ingness
military
a Leban-
ei must
ing for-
x with-
re-
tizing."
baron.
wanton
civilian
nality
reason
recall
Israel's
withern
to the
is the
ally, if
ized by
there it
a con-
souch-
at the
wazee
depen-
tion is

The writer is a research
associate at the Centre for
Lebanese Studies, Oxford.
The article is reprinted
from Middle East International.

Happiness and women's health create NGO buzz

By Mona Eltahawy
Reporter

CAIRO — Pro-choice and pro-life groups preached their own brands of gospel at an "alternative population" conference by non-governmental organisation (NGOs) on Monday.

More than 1,000 NGOs have come to Cairo for their meeting, running alongside the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development.

They hope to add their voice to a final agreement that will set guidelines for population growth over the next two decades.

Groups from India to the United States set up booths in the Cairo stadium's covered hall to display brochures and posters promoting everything from natural family planning to the kundalini yoga path to health and happiness.

Booth 24 — the mucus pattern of fertility and infertility booth — was an eye catcher.

Representatives there waxed lyrical about the billings ovulation method of family planning developed by Australian doctors. It teaches couples to monitor a woman's fertility by checking the consistency of vaginal mucus.

The Roman Catholic Church approves the billings method, in which a couple abstain from intercourse during a woman's fertile period.

"Lovers welcome their (billings) gift as their sexual intercourse can now be pleasurable, normal and complete without the need of expense of condoms, spermicides or barriers," a brochure said.

Nowhere was the contrast greater than at booths 93 and 94.

Representatives from Marie Stopes International, a pro-abortion group, found themselves next door to the International Right to Life Group.

"The two stands next to each other encapsulates a lot of what the population

conference is about," said Frances Perrow, director of public affairs at Marie Stopes International.

Ms. Perrow said her group had considered moving next to a more neutral neighbour.

"We've decided to stay put because it's very good to present our arguments in a logical plausible way and they will see that we're sensible human beings and we really worry a lot about maternal and child health as they're sure do," Ms. Perrow said.

"I hope that whether it be us or the right to life federation, we do have one thing in common — we would like to see the number of abortions drop."

Next door at stand 94, where a video showed an anti-abortion film and posters calling abortion murder, Olivia Ganz of International Right to Life Federation said her organisation could only work with groups that opposed abortion.

"There are so many productive things that can be done to provide women with opportunities and protection for themselves and their children that it's rather sad that organisations like Marie Stopes and others continue to very often believe that abortion is such a good thing for women," Mr. Ganz said.

One of the most popular booths preached a simple message — happiness for all.

Representatives from the Happy Healthy Holy Organisation (HHO), non-profit Indian group dedicated to advancement of the individual through health, education and religion.

As visitors crowded around the HHO men and women, their white turbans, loose shirts and baggy trousers explained their Sikh way of life.

"We still need inner happiness and contentment... Everyone is here to try and make everything better. We feel very sad for some people who don't have a chance to be happy in life," said Sat Nam Khalsa, a spiritual healer.



Veiled women from the Women's Islamic Mission, a small Pakistani right-wing organisation, protest Sunday against the U.N. population conference in Cairo (AFP photo)

Islamists up in arms over U.N. conference

By Samia Nakhoul
Reporter

CAIRO — Egyptian Islamists laid into the U.N. conference on population in Cairo on Tuesday, saying the first day confirmed their worst fears by advocating indecency, extramarital sex and legal abortion.

The Islamist newspaper Al Shaab led with a ferocious attack on Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, saying she made "a disgusting and obscene assault on religion and morals."

Ms. Brundtland said on Monday abortion should be decriminalised and she accused religious opponents of hypocrisy.

"Morality becomes hypocrisy if it means

accepting mothers... dying in connection with unwanted pregnancies and illegal abortions and unwanted children," she said.

"No to the suspicious conference," Al Shaab, published by the Labour Party, said in a banner headline.

The paper juxtaposed pictures of homosexuals, saying the conference recognised their lifestyle, with one of a young girl in an Islamic headscarf, captioned "our future generations have no right to live so they say."

"Despite the overwhelming anger, the confrontations, protests and boycotts, the suspicious conference began in the city of Cairo, the land of the holy Al Azhar.

"On this pure land, delegates poured from different states hailing promiscuity, calling for abortion and extramarital sex and pointing on how to confront 'what the West is advocating and the promotion of values that violate the spirit of Islam,'" Al Shaab said.

Catholic and Islamists object to large sections of a draft "programme of action" because it does not take a moral stand against abortion and extramarital sex.

Four mainly Muslim states — Iraq, Sudan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia — are boycotting the meeting, but other Muslims, including Iran and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, say Muslims should come and put their views

added. Delegates from members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference met on Monday night to coordinate on how to confront "what the West is advocating and the promotion of values that violate the spirit of Islam," Al Shaab said.

Catholic and Islamists object to large sections of a draft "programme of action" because it does not take a moral stand against abortion and extramarital sex.

Four mainly Muslim states — Iraq, Sudan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia — are boycotting the meeting, but other Muslims, including Iran and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, say Muslims should come and put their views

Al Shaab said the aim of the conference was to "destroy our religion, kill our values, break up our families and introduce unacceptable behaviour into our society."

It said the non-governmental organisations at the conference preached promiscuity and prostitution.

Other Islamists said the conference was a Western ploy to stop the world's Muslims from breeding.

"I want to clarify to the reader the following realities to the West and foremost America. America hates the increasing numbers of Muslims, works on reducing their numbers and on annihilating them in whatever way possible," said Mahmoud Hamaya,

head of the Islamic movement Al Da'awa.

"This is why they are thinking of means to stop this impending danger — the growth of Muslims. When American presents aid for some countries for family planning they do not do that out of love but because limiting our population serves the aims of Western Zionist imperialism," he added.

Sheikh Mohammad Al Ghazali, a prominent Muslim cleric, attacked the Western liberal way of life, saying lust and instincts controlled peoples' lives.

"Men are (fulfilled) sexually with men and women with women... definitely there will be reduction in births after these traditions are enforced," he added.

Angolan talks hit snag but derailment unlikely

By Chola Chimbanda
Reporter

LUSAKA — Talks aimed at ending Angola's 20-year civil war have hit another snag but diplomats say troubles for National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels make it unlikely they will collapse.

UNITA last week boycotted the 10-month-old U.N.-mediated talks in the Zambian capital Lusaka after a government bombing raid on the rebels' central highlands headquarters, Huambo.

Diplomats said UNITA could use the strike, which by some estimates killed four people and according to others killed 28, to reverse the offer of a com-

promise to end an impasse over who will govern Huambo province.

The government has been cool towards UNITA's proposal that the Luanda administration be allowed to name the governor of Huambo if rebels had veto power over the decision.

Diplomats said UNITA was being obstructive — but it had little power to derail the talks completely due to shrunken foreign military support and growing impatience within the international community, particularly its former U.S. backers.

"UNITA are in a difficult situation. The military balance is in the government's favour and their former military backers have aban-

doned them," said a senior Zambian government official.

"One can't be overly optimistic about Angola but we remain cautiously optimistic that for the first time they (UNITA) will feel disadvantaged and take the offer for peace."

UNITA seems to respond to threats of U.N. sanctions.

A ban imposed by the Security Council a year ago on arms and fuel sales forced UNITA back to the negotiating table.

Threats of further sanctions if no progress was made by the end of August seemed to have pushed Jonas Savimbi's rebels to stand down on its past refusal to allow the govern-

ment to appoint Huambo's governor.

"It has always been felt that UNITA and government will exercise their military muscle to the last day of the talks, but it is hoped that government's bombing of Huambo will not be taken as a challenge for UNITA to reconsider its position or retaliate militarily," one foreign observer said.

Huambo, which is part of the crucial national reconciliation question, is one of the last points on the agenda before a ceasefire can be reached.

The two foes agreed last December that UNITA would disarm before taking up the administrative positions on offer.

These included four ministerial, seven deputy ministerial, six ambassadorial and three provincial governorships.

UNITA, which has been fighting nearly continuously since the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) seized power after 1975 independence from Angola, has been largely blamed for the breakdown of brief-lived 1991 peace accords.

The movement returned to the bush after rejecting its defeat in September 1992 U.N.-sponsored elections.

Tens of thousands of people have since died in fighting which various rounds of peace accords have failed to resolve.

With the government gaining strength militarily, foreign observers believe an accord reached in Lusaka would stand a better chance compared to past agreements.

But they are sceptical about the political will on both sides after decades of hatred and distrust.

"The talks are nearing conclusion. The government's action takes away the little political will by either side to see this peace process through," an African diplomat said.

"Angolans should learn a lesson from what happened in Somalia... The U.N. will only go so far in trying to help. If the political will is not there, they will pull out."



Dzhokhar Dudayev

A thorn in Moscow's side

Agence France Presse
MOSCOW

In the three years since a landslide poll victory carried him to the presidency of the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya, Dzhokhar Dudayev has made himself the king of resistance to "Russian imperialism."

Galvanising his troops to resist an onslaught by opposition soldiers backed by Moscow, Mr. Dudayev's is adamant that he will be removed only by force.

So far all attempts to do so have failed — he has survived three assassination attempts and two abortive coups.

Born in 1944 in a small mountain village, Dzhokhar Dudi Musi — his Chechen name — was brought up in Kazakhstan, a victim of the forced removals former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin ordered to punish the Chechen people for their supposed collaboration with the Nazis in World War II.

A graduate of flying school and a member of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr. Dudayev became a career soldier in the Red Army, where he rose through the ranks to become the first and last Soviet general of Chechen origin.

Posted to what was then the Baltic Soviet republic of Estonia in the 1980s as head of a strategic bomber base, Mr. Dudayev gained a

reputation as being something of a democrat, turning a blind eye to Estonian nationalist demonstrations.

In November 1990, Mr. Dudayev took part in the Chechen nation's first people's congress.

"When a Chechen unsheathes his dagger, he puts it back only when it has done its work," he said in an impassioned speech which won him election as president of the congress.

Shortly afterwards, he resigned his commission to return to his native Chechnya as the leader of his people.

In September 1991, in the aftermath of the failed coup against the then Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, his units seized power from the Red Army at Grozny, the Chechen capital.

A month later, Mr. Dudayev was elected Chechen president with 85 per cent of the votes cast, and on Nov. 1 he proclaimed independence for Chechnya.

When Russia rejected the independence declaration and imposed a state of emergency, Mr. Dudayev responded by calling on Chechens to mount a terrorist campaign against Russian interests.

Mr. Dudayev says he is a practising Muslim, although he admits he is not too sure of the difference between Sunnis and Shiites.

Europe: A sound U.S. policy of initiative and insurance

By Harold Brown

WASHINGTON — Henry Kissinger, among others, has argued that Clinton administration policies are eroding the Atlantic alliance and turning NATO into an empty shell. This is wrong, but it does raise important issues about the altered security landscape in post-cold war Europe, the principles that should guide U.S. policy there and what alternative policies might be adopted.

The principles of the Clinton administration are in fact sensible, and its policies have worked rather well. The basic issue in Europe is how to maintain, adapt and augment the essential institutions of trans-Atlantic security — most of all NATO but also the European Union and its adjuncts — to the changed situation in Central and Eastern Europe, in Russia and the other states of the former Soviet Union.

None of us can be certain where Russia's evolution will take it. Some expect it to become a large but peaceful member of a cooperative international security order, others, a resurgent and expansionist state

seeking to dominate its neighbours. The principle the Atlantic alliance — and the United States, as its leader — should follow is to be prepared politically and militarily to oppose and deter an expansionist Russia should it develop, while avoiding actions that unduly increase the likelihood that it will.

Most Central European and former Soviet nations also face alternative paths: towards Western values and practices or towards authoritarianism, statism and poisonous nationalism.

The balance for U.S. policy is not easy to strike, especially in dealing with the Central European states, whose history and geography — between Germany and Russia — do not, to put it mildly, make them naturally secure. The Bush administration, which should be commended for its handling of the events of the reunification of Germany and the collapse of the Soviet Union, never faced up to the issue of post-cold war security relations east of the new German border. President Bill Clinton has taken the initiative in addressing that issue and those of NATO structure and the alliance role in

and beyond Europe.

At the NATO summit meeting in January, Mr. Clinton noted that the alliance's role is critical in the task of extending security to the new democracies. With U.S. leadership, NATO moved to do so through the Partnership for Peace, which gives members and potential members the chance for practical experience in military cooperation without waiting to resolve the debate over NATO expansion.

It tailors the relationship with NATO to the condition of each of the partners, thus avoiding the premature drawing of new lines. Russia is a partner, though it will not, in my view, ever become a NATO member. The administration has rightly been ambiguous on that question. But as Mr. Clinton stressed in Warsaw, Russia will not have the right to veto, compromise or threaten the integration of any of the new democracies into Western institutions.

Speaking to the Polish Parliament on July 7, Mr. Clinton explicitly rejected a "gray zone" of uncertain security for Central Europe's new democracies and affirmed that NATO's

expansion was no longer a question of whether but of when and how.

Those who argue that the when and how are full and immediate NATO membership should say for which nations those conditions apply. And they should explain their confidence that the U.S. Congress, the parliaments of the 15 other NATO members and the NATO public are prepared to extend credible guarantees to the newcomers that an attack on one is an attack on all.

They should also explain what effect the drawing of such a line would have on the relationships between Russia and the other nations on the far side of that line.

NATO membership should not be automatic for any country. Democracy, a market economic system and a responsible security policy are appropriate criteria. How and when to expand, how to expand to some "partners" and not others, and NATO's relations with nonmember partners through and beyond a transition will need to be worked out in the context of events. That context will include the economic relationship of Central Europe

to the European Union.

For the next few years at least, the political evolution and the security of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia depend most of all on their internal stability and in turn on their economic progress. The most important external influence on that progress is the European Union's acceptance, first of their products and then of their membership.

The wisest U.S. policy is one that combines initiative and insurance. A revival of Russian expansionism is surely discouraged by Russian knowledge that it would result in a new cold war in circumstances far less favourable to Russia than prevailed in the struggle that had such catastrophic consequences for it.

But more insurance is needed, and it is provided by the U.S. commitment to European security, evidenced by the continuance of a strong U.S. military presence in Europe and reaffirmed in two Clinton budgets. The initiative, and considerable flexibility, is provided by the Partnership for Peace. Mr. Clinton's \$100 million for partnership initiatives is a significant

down payment of resources to support the cooperation of NATO and partner militaries.

Both initiative and insurance are evidenced by U.S. cooperation in strengthening the European pillar of NATO in the form of the Western European Union and of the Eurocorps.

And two U.S. initiatives during the past 18 months — joining with Russia in converting fissionable material from weapons in Russia and Ukraine to peaceful uses, and encouraging Russian participation at Group of Seven meetings — are examples of incentives for Russia to choose a cooperative path, including membership in the Partnership for Peace.

On the central issue of trans-Atlantic and European security, the Clinton administration has done quite well; it need not apologise to its predecessors or to the American people.

The writer, defence secretary in the Carter administration, is a partner in a venture banking firm. This article is reprinted from the Washington Post.

Arab oil capacity to rise sharply in 2000

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab crude oil production capacity is set to increase by nearly seven million barrels per day (b/d) in the year 2000 as regional states press ahead with expansion projects to face growing world demand, according to an official Arab study.

From around 21.5 million b/d in 1993, the capacity of the 10-nation Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will rise to 22.2 million b/d in 1995 and 28.2 million b/d in 2000, the Kuwait-based OPEC said in its annual report, obtained here.

The increase accounts for more than 80 per cent of the total capacity rise by the 12-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), whose capacity will grow from 30.5 million b/d in 1993 to 39.5 million b/d in 2000.

A breakdown showed around a quarter of the Arab capacity rise will come from Saudi Arabia, which produces 12 per cent of the total world oil output and controls 25 per cent of the crude reserves.

Saudi Arabia's present capacity is estimated at 9.6 million b/d and expansion projects will push it to 10 million b/d in 1995 and 12 million b/d in 2000, said OPEC, which controls the bulk of the Arab oil industry.

Capacity in the UAE, another key OPEC member, will jump from 2.5 million b/d in 1993 to 3.2 million b/d in 2000 while Iraq's will surge from 2.5 million b/d to four million b/d and Kuwait's from 2.5 million b/d to 3.5 million b/d.

Libya's capacity will go up from 1.6 million b/d to 2.3 million b/d while there will be small increases in the remaining OPEC members — Egypt, Syria, Bahrain, Qatar, and Algeria, according to the report.

The report did not mention non-OPEC Arab producers Oman and Yemen, which currently have a combined output capacity of around 1.2 million b/d.

Most OPEC states have launched expansion plans until 1995 but they have voiced fears that weak crude prices could hamper projects until the year 2000.

Independent estimates have put energy capacity expansion in the region at more than \$90 billion, including around \$50 billion for oil.

Qadhafi to give needy families \$5,000 a year

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said he would give needy families \$5,000 a year directly from the country's oil revenues, in a speech broadcast Monday.

But the 100,000 families to receive the money would not be free to spend it as they wished, Col. Qadhafi added in the speech broadcast on Libyan radio.

Instead they would have to use the money "for reasonable purposes, and not to buy imported consumer goods."

The grants may be extended to hundreds of thousands more Libyan families in the future until the country is left with only enough money for public spending, Col. Qadhafi told crowds in Tripoli Sunday.

Libya, which has an estimated population of four million, produces 3.14 million barrels of crude oil per day, generating a yearly income of some \$9 billion.

Col. Qadhafi who Thursday celebrated the 25th anniversary of the coup which brought him to power, nationalised the oil sector in the early years of his rule.

In his speech he also warned "those who keep large amounts of money outside the banks" that the government "might change the Libyan currency and time, without prior notice," and they would then lose their money.

The warning also applied to "those who keep Libyan money abroad," he said.

The Libyan leader repeated his opposition to capitalism and his commitment to the socialist regime, but said the state should "stop running some vital sectors, like health and education, and entrust them to the private sector."

Finland unveils austerity budget but debt rises

HELSINKI (AFP) — Finland's centre-right coalition government is proposing new cuts in public expenditure but an increase in state debt under a draft austerity budget for 1995 which was unveiled Tuesday.

The Finnish economy, which had enjoyed close links with the economy of the former Soviet Union, has been severely disrupted by the twin effects of the collapse of communism and recession in western Europe.

However, the draft painted a picture of a surge in export performance.

The budget of 195.6 billion markka (\$38.7 billion), made cuts of 11.4 billion markka (\$2.7 billion) mainly in the social and health sector.

But in spite of the cuts, the state debt is set to increase by 63 billion markka (about \$12.5 billion) and will amount at the end of next year to 386 billion markka (about \$76.4 billion) which is about 70.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

This year the debt amounted to 64 per cent of GDP, but only four years ago it was only 10 per cent of GDP.

The draft was presented to parliament by Finance Minister Iiro Viinanen, a conservative.

The three-party government of centrist Prime Minister Esko Aho had had to revise its controversial proposals to place union membership payments under taxation and reduce unemployment benefits at the last minute.

This was because the confederation of trade unions (SAK) had decided Monday evening to begin preparations for a strike in the export sector.

Mr. Aho blamed the unions for political pressure, but early Tuesday the government revised its disputed proposals.

In the budget proposal the government said that vigorous growth of exports was pulling the economy out of the deepest post-recession recession.

Industrial output had already risen to the level of the boom years, and there were increasing signs of an upturn in the other sectors as well.

This year total output was expected to be 3.5 per cent greater than in last year, and was expected to increase by 4.5 per cent next year.

The trade balance would show a record surplus this year of more than 44 billion markka (about \$8.7 billion), and the current account would swing into a surplus of 10 billion markka (about \$2 billion).

The surpluses were expected to remain almost unchanged next year.

The peak of unemployment was passed during the first half of this year, but the average unemployment rate for 1994 would rise to a higher level than last year to 18.5 per cent, the draft said.

Next year the average unemployment rate would decline to 16.5 per cent. Four years ago the rate in Finland was 3.4 per cent.

High unemployment and state debt would remain the most severe economic policy problems throughout the 1990s, the government, which has been in power since March 1991 elections, said.

U.S. world's most competitive economy, report says

GENEVA (R) — The United States, boosted by its emergence from recession, has replaced long dominant Japan as the world's most competitive economy, according to an authoritative international study.

Close second in a league table covering 41 developed and major developing countries comes Singapore, with Japan, wracked by political and economic woes, pushed into third place, the annual World Competitiveness Report said.

The report, widely used as a key guide for business and investment, was prepared by analysts at the Lausanne Institute for Management Development (IMD) and published with Geneva-based World Economic Forum.

It was issued for publication on Wednesday.

The IMD defines international competitiveness as "the ability of a country to proportionally generate more wealth than its competitors in world markets" and compiles its tables from hard statistics and evaluations by business leaders.

The executives, some 16,500 around the world, are asked in a survey for their views on key factors affecting each country's competitiveness, from government policies through business infrastructure to management and workforce quality.

The report warned that the established advanced countries, including the United States, faced a major threat to their competitive edge posed by the vitality — and cheaper labour markets — of east Asia and Latin America.

Just behind Japan in the table comes Hong Kong with Germany in fifth place, Switzerland in sixth, and a newly dynamic Denmark in seventh — like the Netherlands, eighth, and New Zealand, ninth, pushed up by market reform programmes.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

Bottom of the table is Poland, just behind Venezuela.

Other emerging economies in the top 20 were Malaysia, which made 17th place because of what the report described as its "remarkable growth and transformation towards more value-added industries," and Taiwan, listed number 18.

The report hails Chile, in 22nd place, Mexico, 26th, Argentina, 27th, and Colombia, 30th, as "emerging stars" where bold reform policies and impressive economic leadership were attracting significant amounts of foreign capital.

World Bank calls for 'investment in people' to curb poverty

CAIRO (AFP) — The World Bank called here Tuesday at the U.N. population conference for "investment in people" to address the poverty trap in which a billion people are struggling to survive on a dollar a day.

Lewis Preston, chairman of the World Bank, set out a three-pronged action plan for curbing the population boom and ending poverty through "investments in people."

"The stakes are high," he warned. "Putting it bluntly, if we do not deal with rapid population growth, we will not reduce poverty — and development will not be sustainable."

Investment was needed in basic health care especially for women and children, in education and in access to family planning services, he told the delegates to the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development.

But only around \$5 billion annually was spent on family planning in developing countries, less than five per cent of military expenditure, he stressed.

Meanwhile "a billion people already struggle to survive on a dollar a day, two billion are without clean water and three million children die each year from malnutrition."

The World Bank had estimated that basic health care could be bought for \$8 per person a year, and giving more girls the chance to start school would cost under a billion dollars, Mr. Preston said.

He added the bank had already committed \$2 billion in education in 1993 and \$200 million to family planning and health services, which was to increase by 50 per cent over the next three years.

The international community had to "create the conditions" for individuals to "decide that it is in their own best interest to have smaller families, so that resources can become available for education, health and poverty reduction," Mr. Preston added.

He later told reporters that the World Bank depended on the contribution of donors. "We wish to see more commitment from donor countries," he said.

Armenians lose patience with no recovery in sight

YEREVAN (AFP) — As winter looms, many Armenians are losing patience with their impoverished economy, even though the government claims it is now on the mend.

At a demonstration outside the offices of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian last week, comprising around 200 deposit holders calling for government action after the collapse of 18 commercial banks, Rantsig Saakian vented his anger.

"My pension is only 340 drams (\$1) a month — it's not enough. It would be better if someone dropped an atomic bomb on us than to live like this," said the 65-year-old pensioner who lost all his savings.

Narine Grigorian, a 24-year-old student and a proud relative of the French-Armenian singer Charles Aznavour, lost the \$1,000 she had saved to emigrate to Russia in the bank failures.

"We all want to leave for Russia as there are higher wages there — none of my friends who have graduated has managed to find work," she said.

Yet inside the president's offices, Mr. Ter-Petrosian's spokesman, Levon Zourabian, stressed the government's "great success" in fighting inflation.

"Establishing our national currency was a shock, but we brought monthly inflation from 82 per cent in January down to zero per cent in July," he said.

The blockade means little fuel can reach landlocked Armenia, with its main transport corridor now routed through Georgia, its unstable neighbour to the north.

Mr. Zourabian said the coming winter would not be like that of 1992-1993 when Armenians, in the coldest temperatures recorded over 70 years, shivered around kerosene stoves with only enough fuel for a few hours a day.

"We have become a little accustomed to blockade conditions, we have worked out new transport solutions so we are not in the shock position we were in two years ago," he said.

But the director of the European Union-sponsored Energy Centre in Armenia, Alan Litrer, was less optimistic.

"It's going to be extremely tough if it's anything like the previous winter, as none of the heating systems in the apartments work," he said.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian has enjoyed widespread support in his last three years in power, according to Western observers, as Armenians have unified around the issues of the blockade and the war over Karabakh.

But exhausted by the fighting and the lack of any material improvement in their lives since independence, that solidarity is wearing thin.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



report says

g economies are Malaysia, the place before report de-remarkable transformation value-added and Taiwan, 8. In Chile, in 2000, 26th, and Col- "emerging old reform resive eco-sy were an amounts d. table is Po- Venezuela.

to curb poverty

health care for \$8 per and giving one to start under a fr. Preston bank had \$2 billion \$3 and \$200 planning se, which 50 per cent se years. mail com-

y in sight

less opti- according to Western de- vers, as Armenians have fied around the issues of blockade and the war at Karabakh. But exhausted by the ing and the lack of any me- rial improvement in the lives since independence that solidarity is wearing

OROSCOPE

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 1994

z. Astrologer, Carroll Righter Founda-

NCIES: You have the urge to make changes you do so constructively by combining your present conditions that are working to your

April 19) Talk over your future with a friend later. You have a new aim which is

to May 20) Come to the right decision at the morning. Make that new contact of well to you.

June 21) Complete business matters in the an look into new interests after lunch. Me- or travel.

June 22 to July 21) State your plans clearly stand them and will cooperate. Be on the de- casure.

July 21) Get to work and meet with associ- istructive talk with a fellow associate whom project.

to September 22) Get some special at- please your mate before stepping out with bluish good camaraderie.

3 to October 22) A situation at home up- 80 take care of it early. Handle any creat- id complete attention.

13 to November 21) Handle outside affa- separately. Entertain guests at home in the at all is in order there.

ember 22 to December 21) Handle rou- ing that problem which has been wait- . Go visiting in the evening.

ber 22 to January 20) Take care of perso- money problems in a unique way. Don't

1 to February 19) Formulate a plan for go- in carry through with them speedily. Take

to March 20) Handle business affairs in the be with admirers later. Don't leave any be completed.

er: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

ssword by Eugene Puttenberger

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Financial Jordan Times

Markets In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York	Tokyo
Sterling Pound	1.5475	1.5452
Deutsche Mark	1.5550	1.5520
Swiss Franc	1.3045	1.3040
French Franc	5.3255	5.3227 **
Japanese Yen	99.13	98.83
European Currency Unit	1.2275	1.2333 **

USD Per STG European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 100,000 U.S. Dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.62	4.75	5.05	5.56
Sterling Pound	4.87	5.31	5.75	6.37
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.87	5.25
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.04	4.25	4.54
French Franc	5.37	5.50	5.81	6.25
Japanese Yen	2.31	2.18	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.54	5.73	6.09	6.62

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 100,000 U.S. Dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0782	1.0782
Deutsche Mark	0.4472	0.4494
Swiss Franc	0.5321	0.5348
French Franc	0.1305	0.1312
Japanese Yen	0.7011	0.7046
Dutch Guilder	0.3987	0.4007
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0442
Belgian Franc	---	---

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	0.0715
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

Source: 6/9/94

U.S. Dollar

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	0.8270	0.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.2660	0.3100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma	0.0725	<

Two world records smashed at World Swimming Championships

ROME (Agencies) — Germany's Franz van Almsick, who only made the final when countrywoman Dagmar Hase withdrew, set a world record 1 minute 56.78 seconds for the women's 200 metres freestyle at the World Swimming Championships Tuesday, beating Heike Friedrich's eight-year-old mark of 1:57.55.

This raises to three the number of new world records set at the championships. On Monday, Le Jingyi of China broke the 100m freestyle record.

Another Chinese swimmer, Lu Bin, appeared on course to break the 200 mark, turning in the lead after three lengths well inside world record pace.

But Van Almsick, who placed ninth in qualifying and only made the final because Hase was withdrawn by the German team, produced a powerful last length surge to overtake the Chinese swimmer and touch first.

Van Almsick won bronze in the 100m freestyle Monday and also collected a silver in the 800m freestyle relay.

Lu, also silver medalist in the 100 metres in a time inside the previous world record, clocked 1:56:89 and that also would have beaten Friedrich's time.

Costa Rica's Claudia Poll, who was fastest qualifier for the final, collected the bronze in 1:57.61.

Dolan's swim, set minutes after Van Almsick's set the new women's 200 freestyle mark, shaved six hundredths of a second of the previous record set by Hungary's Tamas Danyi three years ago at the previous championships in Perth.

The American led the field after a strong third, breaststroke leg in a battle with countryman Eric Namesnik and Finland's Jani Sievinen.

Talks held to discuss American baseball season

NEW YORK (AP) — With four days left until the deadline for cancelling the American baseball season, Acting Commissioner Bud Selig met secretly Monday with labour secretary Robert Reich, who was far from optimistic about the season continuing.

"I think there is a very good possibility we are not going to have a World Series this year and that would be the first time since 1904," Reich told a crowd of about 200 Democrats attending a fund-raiser for U.S. Rep. David Obey of Wausau, Wis.

Neither Selig nor Reich announced the meeting, which took place in Milwaukee and was disclosed by another owner. Reich, according to a source speaking on the condition he not be identified, offered suggestions that didn't appear viable.

Selig confirmed the meeting took place but wouldn't comment on what was said. He wouldn't predict whether negotiations would resume before Friday's tentative deadline.

"Let's take each day as it comes," Selig said in a telephone interview.

Reich, who never mentioned the meeting, called the federal government's role in trying to settle the strike "frustrating. We can't make them agree if they don't want to agree."

Magic: Too much money in NBA

PORTO, Portugal (AFP) — Basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson claimed Monday that "there is too much money in the NBA" and said players in the American game do not work hard enough. Johnson, who left the National Basketball Association (NBA) championship in February 1992 after announcing he had the AIDS virus, said: "There are (NBA) players who earn a fortune without having proved their worth." And he added: "The players in NBA teams today don't work as hard as they used to in my time." Johnson was speaking on the eve of an exhibition match here.



Gascoigne hints at return to England

LONDON (R) — England's talented but problem-prone international midfielder Paul Gascoigne has hinted he may leave Italian club Lazio and return home this year.

Gascoigne, whose inspirational play helped take England to the semifinals of the 1990 World Cup in Italy, has been plagued by injury and poor form since he joined the Rome club four years ago.

"I'm definitely thinking about whether to come home this year," said Gascoigne who is currently recovering from his latest injury — a broken right leg. "We'll just have to see when I'm fit and playing again."

Things haven't gone as smoothly as I wanted them to. Now at the end of this year I'm really going to think about what I'm going to do.

Strike a blessing for soccer fans

LONDON (AP) — Few American sports fans have appreciated the baseball strike. But soccer supporters will relish it on Wednesday night when they get to see a United States exhibition match on prime time T.V.

The U.S. plays England on Wednesday at Wembley stadium, London, and the match will be shown live on ESPN 2 mid-afternoon with a tape delayed version going to air at peak viewing time on ESPN's main channel, reaching 62 million households.

"If the baseball strike wasn't on there's no way this match would be shown on a Wednesday night because there would have been a baseball game on," said Romie Krensel, who is commenting the match for ESPN.

"It's definitely the first non-World Cup broadcast for ESPN."

Soccer's future in the U.S. could well be paved by baseball's absence this season.

"The World Cup did create some momentum in the United States and I think this broadcast will help maintain it," Krensel said.

"This will help, especially if they do well again. Soccer's definitely gaining popularity in the states, but it's still like a delicate baby, so every big broadcast could really affect interest in the game."

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

As the strike completed its

Olympic spirit lives on six months after Lillehammer

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — While the snow, the banners and the cowbell-changing crowds are long gone, the enthusiasm that spawned a nearly perfect Olympics lives on in this small Norwegian town.

"You would have to be very brave to go out on the streets of Lillehammer and say that hosting the Olympics was a bad idea," says Mayor Audun Tron.

Six months after a skier with torch in hand soared off the jump to end the Feb. 12-27 Winter Games, Lillehammer residents are warmed by good memories, booming business, a stream of tourists and about 500 new jobs.

Nearly 90 per cent of those asked in a recent poll said they thought having the games in this town of 23,000 was a good idea, compared

with about 60 per cent before the games.

Tourists have arrived just as Norway hoped, drawn by images of the venues, perfect weather and friendly, flag-waving hordes in the town 110 miles (180 kms) north of Oslo.

The tourist stream was far over all expectations. We thought it would be great if we matched the record we set last summer. This summer it was 8-10 per cent higher," the mayor says.

John Davies, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., was drawn to Lillehammer because of the games.

"The Olympics certainly put this city on the map. The warmth of the people came through, as well as the beauty of the area," he says, standing near the Olympic rings in the cobblestones of Lillehammer's main pedestrian street.

Busloads of tourists, many in rain jackets in case of downpours, point cameras at wooden trolls on main street, gawk down the barren ski jumps looming over town, or even try bobsledding at the track north of Lillehammer.

The one thing they aren't interested in on a dreary, late-summer day is Olympic pins — must-have souvenirs six months ago, but now waiting for takers.

"We still have a bunch of pins under the counter," says Bjorn Brusveen, who runs his family's sporting goods store. "During the games everyone wanted them. Now no one asks."

Norway, an oil-rich country of 4.3 million people, spent \$1 billion on the games, including \$681 million from the national government as an investment in the region. The Lillehammer Olympic

Organising Committee (LOOC) left \$58 million to help the city and the other host towns cope with the projected \$2.2 million annual deficit of running the all-new Olympic venues.

The fund somewhat eased local fears, but that doesn't mean no one is worried.

The sprawling, \$11.5 million press centre is empty. No one is sure what to use it for.

Many vacation cabins built to house the media are unsold, and about 30 of them were sold at auction this weekend because the company that built them went bankrupt.

The number of hotel beds in the region has nearly doubled, from 8,300 in 1989 to 14,600, and the slow autumn season is approaching.

"There is always the risk of some bankruptcies," says LOOC spokesman Torstein

Rudi.

But the winter looks bright. Advance bookings for January and February are 70 per cent higher than in 1991, says Jo Kobro, of Lillehammer Development, a city company set up to run the venues and to keep interest in Lillehammer alive.

Lillehammer has found non-traditional uses for its winter venues. Rental go-carts sputter around at the freestyle skiing area, and ski-lifts haul bikes and paying riders to the top of the mountain for a 12-mile (20-km) trek into town.

A sports college is opening at the Olympic park above town, and a university is moving into the broadcast centre built for the games.

At the \$28 million bobsled track, which Lillehammer did not want to build, thousands of tourists have paid to ride wheeled bobsleds in summer and real ones in winter, providing \$285,000 in income.

"I think we have probably been better than any Olympic towns in figuring out ways to have activities all year long," Kobro says.

The organising committee's staff, which peaked at 800 people, dwindles by another 40 to 18 people this week. About 80 per cent of the staff has found other

jobs, Rudi says.

Tron says the town actually has grown by about 400 people since the games ended.

One enterprising former LOOC staff member, Line Urke, realised that other cities might want to know the secret of Lillehammer's perfect games.

So on Thursday, Urke is setting up shop in Lillehammer, offering advice and lectures by key LOOC personnel to future or hopeful Olympic hosts.

"Things went so well in Lillehammer that we think others should be able to learn from that experience," Urke says.

Many residents feared the games would change their picturesque town of carefully preserved wooden buildings from the 1800s. They were right.

"The whole town has been fixed up and is better than ever," Kobro says. "That, and the wonderful games themselves, is why people who were skeptical have changed their minds."

Tron even talks about bidding for the Winter Games every 20 years or so, although he knows the danger of trying to repeat past glories: "It might not be as perfect a second time around."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Romania coach given army promotion

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — The coach widely credited with Romania's success in this year's World Cup soccer championship was promoted Monday to the rank of major general in the army. Besides coaching Romania's World Cup team, Anghel Iordanescu is coach of Steaua, an army team. All members of that team have military rank. Iordanescu, a colonel in the army, was promoted by President Ion Iliescu to major general in a ceremony Monday. "It is a unique moment in my life," said the 43-year-old coach. Romania thrilled its fans this summer by making it to the quarterfinals of the World Cup and finishing seventh. Iordanescu turned down offers from Greece and other countries, deciding instead to stay with the Romanian team until his contract expires after the European Championships in 1995. Iordanescu was a midfielder for Steaua in 1986 when they won the European Championships in Seville. He later became assistant coach and then coach. He took over the job as national coach a year ago.

Swedish tennis star has son

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Sonya Wilander, wife of tennis player Mats Wilander, gave birth to a son Wednesday, a Swedish report said. Wilander, who was eliminated from the U.S. Open this year in early rounds, was with Sonya when she gave birth to the 4.2-kilo (9.4-pound) boy at Greenwich Hospital near their home in the U.S. state of Connecticut, the Aftonbladet newspaper said. "A real heavy boy, just like his dad when he was born," Wilander was quoted as saying. Eighteen months ago, the couple had their first child, Emma. Wilander, who once was the No. 1 tennis player in the world, won the U.S. Open in 1988.

English footballer charged with murder

LONDON (AFP) — British footballer James Kelly, 21, and two other men were charged Monday with the murder of a man who died after a brawl outside a hotel in Liverpool, northern England, police said. Kelly, a midfielder with the first division team Wolverhampton Wanderers, was charged with the murder of Peter Dunphy, 26, early Sunday. Also charged with murder were Kelly's brother John, 22, and a friend, Kevin Atkinson, 21. All three will appear before the city's magistrates Tuesday, said a Merseyside police spokesman. Dunphy, a welder from Toxteth, Liverpool, died of head injuries in the Royal Liverpool Hospital following the incident outside the Bradford Hotel in the city centre.

MERCEDES 280S FOR SALE

DUTY UNPAID
Model 1980, green olive, in very good condition.
Price: JD 3,000.

Phone: 666075

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Three bedrooms, salon, dining room, veranda and two bathrooms.
Location: Jabal Amman, near Hisham Hotel, between the Third and Fourth Circles.

For more information, call 712415, 714416

A WORLD OF CREATIVITY

NASSIB BARAKAT & SONS CO.
DAWOOD BLDG - MECCA STR.

TEL : 824750

MADE IN U.S.A.
LIMITED QUANTITY

The Embassy of Italy Announces

The starting of Italian Language classes

Courses All Levels

* Saturday - Monday - Wednesday
From 4 - 6 p.m. & 6 - 8 p.m.
Starting Day : Saturday 10/09/1994

* Sunday - Tuesday - Thursday
From 4 - 6 p.m. & From 6 - 8 p.m.
Starting Day : Sunday 11/09/1994

* Morning Classes will start on Saturday 10/09/1994.
Fees : 73 J. D. for two months and a half, 3 days a week, 2 hours a day.

Information & Registration at the Italian Language Centre
Shmeisani near Birds' Garden
Tel : 669348.

Registration up to 8/9/1994

Director & Linguistic Adviser
Prof. Emanuele Minardo

When preparing to visit or tour Jordan

Make Torino a 'Fixture' in your plan

Ask For Torino LV's and DV's Lunch & Dinner Vouchers at authorized Travel Agents and others
JD 8,000 - JD 10,000 - JD 12,000

Call Torino 816690 - Swefiyeh

Benetton and Schumacher face a day of reckoning

PARIS (R) — Michael Schumacher and the Benetton Formula One motor racing team face a day of reckoning on Wednesday which could result in their expulsion from this year's championship.

The Benetton team go into a potentially explosive meeting with the FIA's World Motor Sport Council to answer charges that they illegally tampered with their refuelling equipment.

His remarks confirmed those of FIA President Max Mosley who, before the season started, warned of draconian punishments for any teams or drivers found to be breaking the new technical regulations introduced this year.

Schumacher, hurt and disillusioned by recent events, has threatened to leave the Benetton team if it were proved they went behind his back to do things that were against the rules.

He is appealing against being stripped of his Belgian Grand Prix success last month when, after winning

NEW YORK (AP) — This was the Andre Agassi who won Wimbledon, the one who once threatened to rule tennis, the one U.S. Open fans have been waiting to see ever since Pete Sampras blew him out in the final here four years ago.

For one nearly perfect set at the start, another at the end, and three gruelling sets in the middle, Agassi put on a show late Monday that rivalled the best matches of his career as he beat no. 6 Michael Chang 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 to reach the quarterfinals.

Agassi, unseeded at the open for the first time since 1987, knew he was playing well before this match but realised "you don't really know that for sure until you are pushed" the way he was against Chang.

"And to get through it is everything to me," he said. "It allows me to believe that I can win the tournament. ... This is a perfect example of a match I never would have gotten through even a year ago. I should say, especially a year ago, with the year that I had last year."

"This is the best I have ever hit the tennis ball, absolutely. You've got to understand, this is the culmination of a lot of things. I have hit the ball pretty good before, but it was not balanced with that competitive spirit, not balanced with that focused concentration. It is like hitting 50 aces a match, but if you lose the match, it doesn't matter. You've got to put it all together."

Another unseeded player on a greater longshot, Richey Reneberg, seemed on his way to the quarters when he beat



Andre Agassi

no. 9 Todd Martin 6-3 in the first set at night. But Reneberg, who upset no. 7 Boris Becker in the first round, felt a pop in the upper part of his left leg in the last game of that set, got treatment from a trainer at court-side twice, then retired after losing the first three games of the second set.

"It's very frustrating," Reneberg said. "I felt something in my inner leg snap. I just can't move. So I don't see any point in trying to play him on one leg. I can't even play 75 per cent."

Martin will play unseeded Bernd Karbacher, who beat Gianluca Pozzi 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"I don't really feel like I won," Martin said. "He seemed really eager for the occasion. He played better

than I did."

Reaching the quarters in the women's draw were no. 1 Steffi Graf, no. 4 Mary Pierce, no. 7 Jana Novotna and no. 11 Amanda Coetzer.

Graf had the toughest opponent but an easy time beating Zina Garrison-Jackson 6-1, 6-2 to set up a match against Coetzer, a 6-3, 6-0 winner against Mana Endo.

"I felt happy to be able to play like that, really," Graf said. "It is not the easiest conditions out there with the wind, and to be able to adjust perfectly to it, I think that is all I wanted."

Pierce beat Iva Majoli 6-1, 6-2 and will next play Novotna, a 6-0, 6-4 winner over Magdalena Maleeva.

Agassi won Wimbledon playing this way in 1992, but injuries and extra weight sent him through a miserable tailspin last year that ended with his first-round exit at the U.S. Open.

In a "zone" from the beginning of this match, Agassi teed off on shots almost recklessly but couldn't miss early in the first set. Chang didn't score a point in the first three games, and Agassi didn't hit a single ball out for 15 straight points. Throughout the whole first set, Agassi made only three unforced errors — an incredibly low number in a match of such heavy errors — an incredibly low number in a match of such heavy slugging.

"For some reason, I wasn't quite used to Andre's ball," Chang said. "I was on my heels a little bit and wasn't quite able to set my feet straight. Against Andre, you have to get on top of him fast."

He doesn't play as well when he is down. He is a much better player when he is a front-runner.

The first set lasted only 23 minutes, but Agassi and everyone else knew that level of perfection couldn't last. Agassi couldn't play better, and Chang could only get better, though in truth he played well enough to beat many others.

"The last thing I wanted is for Michael to just rally with me until he gets his ball, because there is nobody better at seizing an opportunity than Michael," Agassi said. Chang lived up to his reputation as a relentless competitor, clawing back to push the second set to a tiebreaker.

There were points in this brilliant match — the best by far at the open this year — that had fans gasping and cheering at the way Agassi and Chang each covered so much ground chasing balls and hitting winners on the run.

Agassi got a crucial break point against Chang exactly that way in the third game of the fifth set when Chang popped up a defensive half-volley near the net. Racing diagonally across the court from the baseline, Agassi hammered a forehand at Chang's feet that brought a standing ovation from the crowd and a glare from Chang.

Agassi went on to break Chang at love, then put on another show of athleticism to hold serve to 3-1 with a rapid-fire exchange at the net that ended with a backhand volley by Agassi. He raised both hands in triumph, jumped a few times and heard the crowd's cheers sweep down on him.

Lee's Asian Games invitation may be withdrawn, says Kyodo

TOKYO (R) — The head of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has hinted at withdrawing an invitation to Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui to attend next month's Asian Games.

Kyodo news agency said Tuesday.

The continent's top sporting nation China has threatened to boycott the games, due to open Oct. 2 in the Japanese city of Hiroshima, if Lee attends.

"My invitation to Taiwan's President Lee is proper. But there's a possibility it will be changed," Kyodo quoted the OCA president, Ahmad Al Fahad of Kuwait, as saying.

The invitation, extended earlier this summer by the OCA president, is causing major headaches for Japanese officials.

Kyodo said Ahmad was speaking in Paris after a meeting there Monday with International Olympic Committee (IOC) members from China, Taiwan and Japan.

Kyodo said his remarks apparently suggested the OCA chief intended to seek a substitute Taiwanese representative more acceptable to Beijing.

"For the OCA, the most important thing is the success of the Asian Games. I would like to solve the problem on the principle of how to make the Hiroshima Games successful," the OCA president said.

Kyodo said Ahmad appeared optimistic about the issue, saying: "It may be resolved in the next three or four days."

It said Ahmad insisted he extended the invitation to Lee in keeping with the OCA charter.

Japanese security officials are worried that with less than a month to go before the games start, they do not know how many major guests they will need to protect.

"The invitation to Lee was made by the OCA president without consulting with us. So far, we have not heard (from the OCA) of any other heads of states being invited to attend the games," one official said.

Games officials are mystified as to why the OCA president would invite only one Asian head of state.

Some are angered that a group like the OCA, which is charged with overseeing sport in Asia, could be so unaware of the sensitivity of the China-Taiwan issue.

A record 7,300 athletes and officials from 42 nations are due to take part in the quadrennial sports event from Oct. 2 to 16, competing in 337 events in 34 sports.

New nations make debut on European stage

LONDON (R) — With the glorious memories of the World Cup barely two months old, Europe's footballers begin the long, hard slog of qualifying for the 1996 championship Wednesday.

The European season — hardly begun in some countries — moves not so much into overdrive as overload as the biggest ever qualifying campaign sees a total of 18 matches in eight groups.

A proliferation of new nations in the wake of the break-up of the eastern bloc has led to an expanded championship with the likes of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Slovakia and Slovenia among the 17 countries competing for the first time.

From 230 qualifying matches over the next 14 months, 16 teams will emerge from the record 47 entrants to contest the finals in England.

While the ranks of the minnows have swelled alarmingly and will bring a rash of high-scoring games, there is also greater scope for upsets similar to the huge shock four years ago when Austria were humbled by the Faroe Islands.

But the spotlight on Wednesday will be clearly on two of Europe's three World Cup semifinalists — Italy and Sweden.

Italy's trip to neighbouring Slovenia will be their first match since losing to Brazil in the World Cup final.

The beaten finalists, looking to make amends for failing to reach the 1992 European finals in Sweden, will be without injured World Cup hero Roberto Baggio whose goals took Italy to the final.

Sweden, who added the prestige of a World Cup semifinal to a last-four appearance in their own European championship, open with a trip to Scandinavian neighbours Iceland.

Their surprise World Cup success sees them installed as one of the favourites but they may need to rely on their star scorers if they are to grasp the single automatic qualifying berth from the five-team group three which includes Switzerland and Hungary.

They are likely to start without their record-breaking goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli, who has an injured left shoulder, and captain Jonas Thern. He is suspended after being sent off in the World Cup semifinal against Brazil.

Bulgaria who knocked out champions Germany to reach the World Cup semifinals, start their campaign next month in the same group as the Germans.

The Netherlands, beaten by Brazil in an outstanding World Cup quarterfinal, will be missing several familiar faces when they play Luxembourg in Group Five, which also includes Norway and the new Czech Republic.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA SHARIF
©1993 Triune Media Services, Inc.
MAKE THE RIGHT MOVE
EARLY
North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ 8	♠ 9	♠ 7	♠ 10
♥ A K 6	♥ Q 9 7	♥ A 10 8 5 4	♥ 3
♦ Q 10 5 3	♦ J 9 2	♦ Q J 10 7 3	♦ 8 4 2
♣ 4	♣ 6 3 2	♣ J 5	♣ K Q 3
WEST		EAST	
♠ 7 4	♠ 5	♠ K J 10 8 5	♠ 7 8 2
♥ 10	♥ 12	♥ 2	♥ 3
♦ 2	♦ 3	♦ 4	♦ 5
♣ 3	♣ 4	♣ 5	♣ 6

The bidding: South 1♠, North 1♥, South 2♥, North 3♥, South 4♥, North 5♥, South 6♥, North 7♥, South 8♥, North 9♥, South 10♥, North 11♥, South 12♥, North 13♥, South 14♥, North 15♥, South 16♥, North 17♥, South 18♥, North 19♥, South 20♥, North 21♥, South 22♥, North 23♥, South 24♥, North 25♥, South 26♥, North 27♥, South 28♥, North 29♥, South 30♥, North 31♥, South 32♥, North 33♥, South 34♥, North 35♥, South 36♥, North 37♥, South 38♥, North 39♥, South 40♥, North 41♥, South 42♥, North 43♥, South 44♥, North 45♥, South 46♥, North 47♥, South 48♥, North 49♥, South 50♥, North 51♥, South 52♥, North 53♥, South 54♥, North 55♥, South 56♥, North 57♥, South 58♥, North 59♥, South 60♥, North 61♥, South 62♥, North 63♥, South 64♥, North 65♥, South 66♥, North 67♥, South 68♥, North 69♥, South 70♥, North 71♥, South 72♥, North 73♥, South 74♥, North 75♥, South 76♥, North 77♥, South 78♥, North 79♥, South 80♥, North 81♥, South 82♥, North 83♥, South 84♥, North 85♥, South 86♥, North 87♥, South 88♥, North 89♥, South 90♥, North 91♥, South 92♥, North 93♥, South 94♥, North 95♥, South 96♥, North 97♥, South 98♥, North 99♥, South 100♥, North 101♥, South 102♥, North 103♥, South 104♥, North 105♥, South 106♥, North 107♥, South 108♥, North 109♥, South 110♥, North 111♥, South 112♥, North 113♥, South 114♥, North 115♥, South 116♥, North 117♥, South 118♥, North 119♥, South 120♥, North 121♥, South 122♥, North 123♥, South 124♥, North 125♥, South 126♥, North 127♥, South 128♥, North 129♥, South 130♥, North 131♥, South 132♥, North 133♥, South 134♥, North 135♥, South 136♥, North 137♥, South 138♥, North 139♥, South 140♥, North 141♥, South 142♥, North 143♥, South 144♥, North 145♥, South 146♥, North 147♥, South 148♥, North 149♥, South 150♥, North 151♥, South 152♥, North 153♥, South 154♥, North 155♥, South 156♥, North 157♥, South 158♥, North 159♥, South 160♥, North 161♥, South 162♥, North 163♥, South 164♥, North 165♥, South 166♥, North 167♥, South 168♥, North 169♥, South 170♥, North 171♥, South 172♥, North 173♥, South 174♥, North 175♥, South 176♥, North 177♥, South 178♥, North 179♥, South 180♥, North 181♥, South 182♥, North 183♥, South 184♥, North 185♥, South 186♥, North 187♥, South 188♥, North 189♥, South 190♥, North 191♥, South 192♥, North 193♥, South 194♥, North 195♥, South 196♥, North 197♥, South 198♥, North 199♥, South 200♥, North 201♥, South 202♥, North 203♥, South 204♥, North 205♥, South 206♥, North 207♥, South 208♥, North 209♥, South 210♥, North 211♥, South 212♥, North 213♥, South 214♥, North 215♥, South 216♥, North 217♥, South 218♥, North 219♥, South 220♥, North 221♥, South 222♥, North 223♥, South 224♥, North 225♥, South 226♥, North 227♥, South 228♥, North 229♥, South 230♥, North 231♥, South 232♥, North 233♥, South 234♥, North 235♥, South 236♥, North 237♥, South 238♥, North 239♥, South 240♥, North 241♥, South 242♥, North 243♥, South 244♥, North 245♥, South 246♥, North 247♥, South 248♥, North 249♥, South 250♥, North 251♥, South 252♥, North 253♥, South 254♥, North 255♥, South 256♥, North 257♥, South 258♥, North 259♥, South 260♥, North 261♥, South 262♥, North 263♥, South 264♥, North 265♥, South 266♥, North 267♥, South 268♥, North 269♥, South 270♥, North 271♥, South 272♥, North 273♥, South 274♥, North 275♥, South 276♥, North 277♥, South 278♥, North 279♥, South 280♥, North 281♥, South 282♥, North 283♥, South 284♥, North 285♥, South 286♥, North 287♥, South 288♥, North 289♥, South 290♥, North 291♥, South 292♥, North 293♥, South 294♥, North 295♥, South 296♥, North 297♥, South 298♥, North 299♥, South 300♥, North 301♥, South 302♥, North 303♥, South 304♥, North 305♥, South 306♥, North 307♥, South 308♥, North 309♥, South 310♥, North 311♥, South 312♥, North 313♥, South 314♥, North 315♥, South 316♥, North 317♥, South 318♥, North 319♥, South 320♥, North 321♥, South 322♥, North 323♥, South 324♥, North 325♥, South 326♥, North 327♥, South 328♥, North 329♥, South 330♥, North 331♥, South 332♥, North 333♥, South 334♥, North 335♥, South 336♥, North 337♥, South 338♥, North 339♥, South 340♥, North 341♥, South 342♥, North 343♥, South 344♥, North 345♥, South 346♥, North 347♥, South 348♥, North 349♥, South 350♥, North 351♥, South 352♥, North 353♥, South 354♥, North 355♥, South 356♥, North 357♥, South 358♥, North 359♥, South 360♥, North 361♥, South 362♥, North 363♥, South 364♥, North 365♥, South 366♥, North 367♥, South 368♥, North 369♥, South 370♥, North 371♥, South 372♥, North 373♥, South 374♥, North 375♥, South 376♥, North 377♥, South 378♥, North 379♥, South 380♥, North 381♥, South 382♥, North 383♥, South 384♥, North 385♥, South 386♥, North 387♥, South 388♥, North 389♥, South 390♥, North 391♥, South 392♥, North 393♥, South 394♥, North 395♥, South 396♥, North 397♥, South 398♥, North 399♥, South 400♥, North 401♥, South 402♥, North 403♥, South 404♥, North 405♥, South 406♥, North 407♥, South 408♥, North 409♥, South 410♥, North 411♥, South 412♥, North 413♥, South 414♥, North 415♥, South 416♥, North 417♥, South 418♥, North 419♥, South 420♥, North 421♥, South 422♥, North 423♥, South 424♥, North 425♥, South 426♥, North 427♥, South 428♥, North 429♥, South 430♥, North 431♥, South 432♥, North 433♥, South 434♥, North 435♥, South 436♥, North 437♥, South 438♥, North 439♥, South 440♥, North 441♥, South 442♥, North 443♥, South 444♥, North 445♥, South 446♥, North 447♥, South 448♥, North 449♥, South 450♥, North 451♥, South 452♥, North 453♥, South 454♥, North 455♥, South 456♥, North 457♥, South 458♥, North 459♥, South 460♥, North 461♥, South 462♥, North 463♥, South 464♥, North 465♥, South 466♥, North 467♥, South 468♥, North 469♥, South 470♥, North 471♥, South 472♥, North 473♥, South 474♥, North 475♥, South 476♥, North 477♥, South 478♥, North 479♥, South 480♥, North 481♥, South 482♥, North 483♥, South 484♥, North 485♥, South 486♥, North 487♥, South 488♥, North 489♥, South 490♥, North 491♥, South 492♥, North 493♥, South 494♥, North 495♥, South 496♥, North 497♥, South 498♥, North 499♥, South 500♥, North 501♥, South 502♥, North 503♥, South 504♥, North 505♥, South 506♥, North 507♥, South 508♥, North 509♥, South 510♥, North 511♥, South 512♥, North 513♥, South 514♥, North 515♥, South 516♥, North 517♥, South 518♥, North 519♥, South 520♥, North 521♥, South 522♥, North 523♥, South 524♥, North 525♥, South 526♥, North 527♥, South 528♥, North 529♥, South 530♥, North 531♥, South 532♥, North 533♥, South 534♥, North 535♥, South 536♥, North 537♥, South 538♥, North 539♥, South 540♥, North 541♥, South 542♥, North 543♥, South 544♥, North 545♥, South 546♥, North 547♥, South 548♥, North 549♥, South 550♥, North 551♥, South 552♥, North 553♥, South 554♥, North 555♥, South 556♥, North 557♥, South 558♥, North 559♥, South 560♥, North 561♥, South 562♥, North 563♥, South 564♥, North 565♥, South 566♥, North 567♥, South 568♥, North 569♥, South 570♥, North 571♥, South 572♥, North 573♥, South 574♥, North 575♥, South 576♥, North 577♥, South 578♥, North 579♥, South 580♥, North 581♥, South 582♥, North 583♥, South 584♥, North 585♥, South 586♥, North 587♥, South 588♥, North 589♥, South 590♥, North 591♥, South 592♥, North 593♥, South 594♥, North 595♥, South 596♥, North 597♥, South 598♥, North 599♥, South 600♥, North 601♥, South 602♥, North 603♥, South 604♥, North 605♥, South 606♥, North 607♥, South 608♥, North 609♥, South 610♥, North 611♥, South 612♥, North 613♥, South 614♥, North 615♥, South 616♥, North 617♥, South 618♥, North 619♥, South 620♥, North 621♥, South 622♥, North 623♥, South 624♥, North 625♥, South 626♥, North 627♥, South 628♥, North 629♥, South 630♥, North 631♥, South 632♥, North 633♥, South 634♥, North 635♥, South 636♥, North 637♥, South 638♥, North 639♥, South 640♥, North 641♥, South 642♥, North 643♥, South 644♥, North 645♥, South 646♥, North 647♥, South 648♥, North 649♥, South 650♥, North 651♥, South 652♥, North 653♥, South 654♥, North 655♥, South 656♥, North 657♥, South 658♥, North 659♥, South 660♥, North 661♥, South 662♥, North 663♥, South 664♥, North 665♥, South 666♥, North 667♥, South 668♥, North 669♥, South 670♥, North 671♥, South 672♥, North 673♥, South 674♥, North 675♥, South 676♥, North 677♥, South 678♥, North 679♥, South 680♥, North 681♥, South 682♥, North 683♥, South 684♥, North 685♥, South 686♥, North 687♥, South 688♥, North 689♥, South 690♥, North 691♥, South 692♥, North 693♥, South 694♥, North 695♥, South 696♥, North 697♥, South 698♥, North 699♥, South 700♥, North 701♥, South 702♥, North 703♥, South 704♥, North 705♥, South 706♥, North 707♥, South 708♥, North 709♥, South 710♥, North 711♥, South 712♥, North 713♥, South 714♥, North 715♥, South 716♥, North 717♥, South 718♥, North 719♥, South 720♥, North 721♥, South 722♥, North 723♥, South 724♥, North 725♥, South 726♥, North 727♥, South 728♥, North 729♥, South 730♥, North 731♥, South 732♥, North 733♥, South 734♥, North 735♥, South 736♥, North 737♥, South 738♥, North 739♥, South 740♥, North 741♥, South 742♥, North 743♥, South 744♥, North 745♥, South 746♥, North 747♥, South 748♥, North 749♥, South 750♥, North 751♥, South 752♥, North 753♥, South 754♥, North 755♥, South 756♥, North 757♥, South 758♥, North 759♥, South 760♥, North 761♥, South 762♥, North 763♥, South 764♥, North 765♥, South 766♥, North 767♥, South 768♥, North 769♥, South 770♥, North 771♥, South 772♥, North 773♥, South 774♥, North 775♥, South 776♥, North 777♥, South 778♥, North 779♥, South 780♥, North 781♥, South 782♥, North 783♥, South 784♥, North 785♥, South 786♥, North 787♥, South 788♥, North 789♥, South 790♥, North 791♥, South 792♥, North 793♥, South 794♥, North 795♥, South 796♥, North 797♥, South 798♥, North 799♥, South 800♥, North 801♥, South 802♥, North 803♥, South 804♥, North 805♥, South 806♥, North 807♥, South 808♥, North 809♥, South 810♥, North 811♥, South 812♥, North 813♥, South 814♥, North 815♥, South 816♥, North 817♥, South 818♥, North 819♥, South 820♥, North 821♥, South 822♥, North 823♥, South 824♥, North 825♥, South 826♥, North 827♥, South 828♥, North 829♥, South 830♥, North 831♥, South 832♥, North 833♥, South 834♥, North 835♥, South 836♥, North 837♥, South 838♥, North 839♥, South 840♥, North 841♥, South 842♥, North 843♥, South 844♥, North 845♥, South 846♥, North 847♥, South 848♥, North 849♥, South 850♥, North 851♥, South 852♥, North 853♥, South 854♥, North 855♥, South 856♥, North 857♥, South 858♥, North 859♥, South 860♥, North 861♥, South 862♥, North 863♥, South 864♥, North 865♥, South 866♥, North 867♥, South 868♥, North 869♥, South 870♥, North 871♥, South 872♥, North 873♥, South 874♥, North 875♥, South 876♥, North 877♥, South 878♥, North 879♥, South 880♥, North 881♥, South 882♥, North 883♥, South 884♥, North 885♥, South 886♥, North 887♥, South 888♥, North 889♥, South 890♥, North 891♥, South 892♥, North 893♥, South 894♥, North 895♥, South 896♥, North 897♥, South 898♥, North 899♥, South 900♥, North 901♥, South 902♥, North 903♥, South 904♥, North 905♥, South 906♥, North 907♥, South 908♥, North 909♥, South 910♥, North 911♥, South 912♥, North 913♥, South 914♥, North 915♥, South 916♥, North 917♥, South 918♥, North 919♥, South 920♥, North 921♥, South 922♥, North 923♥, South 924♥, North 925♥, South 926♥, North 927♥, South 928♥, North 929♥, South 930♥, North 931♥, South 932♥, North 933♥, South 934♥, North 935♥, South 936♥, North 937♥, South 938♥, North 939♥, South 940♥, North 941♥, South 942♥, North 943♥, South 944♥, North 945♥, South 946♥, North 947♥, South 948♥, North 949♥, South 950♥, North 951♥, South 952♥, North 953♥, South 954♥, North 955♥, South 956♥, North 957♥, South 958♥, North 959♥, South 960♥, North 961♥, South 962♥, North 963♥, South 964♥, North 965♥, South 966♥, North 967♥, South 968♥, North 969♥, South 970♥, North 971♥, South 972♥, North 973♥, South 974♥, North 975♥, South 976♥, North 977♥, South 978♥, North 979♥, South 980♥, North 981♥, South 982♥, North 983♥, South 984♥, North 985♥, South 986♥, North 987♥, South 988♥, North 989♥, South 990♥, North 991♥, South 992♥, North 993♥, South 994♥, North 995♥, South 996♥, North 997♥, South 998♥, North 999♥, South 1000♥, North 1001♥, South 1002♥, North 1003♥, South 1004♥, North 1005♥, South 1006♥, North 1007♥, South 1008♥, North 1009♥, South 1010♥, North 1011♥, South 1012♥, North 1013♥, South 1014♥, North 1015♥, South 1016♥, North 1017♥, South 1018♥, North 1019♥, South 1020♥, North 1021♥, South 1022♥, North 1023♥, South 1024♥, North 1025♥, South 1026♥, North 1027♥, South 1028♥, North 1029♥, South 1030♥, North 1031♥, South 1032♥, North 1033♥, South 1034♥, North 1035♥, South 1036♥, North 1037♥, South 1038♥, North 1039♥, South 1040♥, North 1041♥, South 1042♥, North 1043♥, South 1044♥, North 1045♥, South 1046♥, North 1047♥, South 1048♥, North 1049♥, South 1050♥, North 1051♥, South 1052♥, North 1053♥, South 1054♥, North 1055♥, South 1056♥, North 1057♥, South 1058♥, North 1059♥, South 1060♥, North 1061♥, South 1062♥, North 1063♥, South 1064♥, North 1065♥, South 1066♥, North 1067♥, South 1068♥, North 1069♥, South 1070♥, North 1071♥, South 1072♥, North 1073♥, South 1074♥, North 1075♥, South 1076♥, North 1077♥, South 1078♥, North 1079♥, South 1080♥, North 1081♥, South 1082♥, North 1083♥, South 1084♥, North 1085♥, South 1086♥, North 1087♥, South 1088♥, North 1089♥, South 1090♥, North 1091♥, South 1092♥, North 1093♥, South 1094♥, North 1095♥, South 1096♥, North 1097♥, South 1098♥, North 1099♥, South 1100♥, North 1101♥, South 1102♥, North 1103♥, South 1104♥, North 1105♥, South 1106♥, North 1107♥, South 1108♥, North 1109♥, South 1110♥, North 1111♥, South 1112♥, North 1113♥, South 1114♥, North 1115♥, South 1116♥, North 1117♥, South 1118♥, North 1119♥, South 1120♥, North 1121♥, South 1122♥, North 1123♥, South 1124♥, North 1125♥, South 1126♥, North 1127♥, South 1128♥, North 1129♥, South 1130♥, North 1131♥, South 1132♥, North 1133♥, South 1134♥, North 1135♥, South 1136♥, North 1137♥, South 1138♥, North 1139♥, South 1140♥, North 1141♥, South 1142♥, North 1143♥, South 1144♥, North 1145♥, South 1146♥, North 1147♥, South 1148♥, North 1149♥, South 1150♥, North 1151♥, South 1152♥, North 1153♥, South 1154♥, North 1155♥, South 1156♥, North 1157♥, South 1158♥, North 1159♥, South 1160♥, North 1161♥, South 1162♥, North 1163♥, South 1164♥, North 1165♥, South 1166♥, North 1167♥, South 1168♥, North 1169♥, South 1170♥, North 1171♥, South 1172♥, North 1173♥, South 1174♥, North 1175♥, South 1176♥, North 1177♥, South 1178♥, North 1179♥, South 1180♥, North 1181♥, South 1182♥, North 1183♥, South 1184♥, North 1185♥, South 1186♥, North 1187♥, South 1188♥, North 1189♥, South 1190♥, North 1191♥, South 1192♥, North 1193♥, South 1194♥, North 1195♥, South 1196♥, North 1197♥, South 1198♥, North 1199♥, South 1200♥, North 1201♥, South 1202♥, North 1203♥, South 1204♥, North 1205♥, South 120

COLUMN

by Sama Atyeh
based in the Jordan. Times
ANAN - Former chief
and co-owner of
Palestine's An Nahar
paper, Issam Anan
has daily a few days
in the Palestinian
Anti Authority (PNA).
came down in late June
for an interview with the
Times. Mr. Anan
said he had decided to quit
the paper came
before I heard of his
departure.
I decided to leave the
area due to political,
racial and administrative
difficulties I had with
my partner, Ghassan
Hallaq. Mr.
Anan said from his An-
nahar "I did not have
a feeling that the PNA
was to close down
the paper."
The 30 days of An-
nan's absence, it is re-
ported on Monday with
him pledging allegi-
ance to the Palestine Li-
beration Organization (PLO)
and an announce-
ment that Mr. Anan was
being associated with
the PNA. The PNA closed down
the paper shortly after An-
nan's departure and Israel annexed the
Gaza Strip. Declaration of an
independent state for the
PNA where Israel's pres-
ence in the Kingdom of
Jordan is the main obsta-
cle to the Muslim holy land in
Jerusalem.
We consider the pan-
Arab factor as a common
factor which has gone and
is the reason for the ban. The
ban is editorial, read on
the paper.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—United Nations chief Boutros Ghali arrived Tuesday for talks expected to focus to two conflicts that threaten to defy solution: Afghanistan's civil war and the India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir.

While his presence will draw attention on the region's bitter feuds, his trip is seen mostly as a courtesy call on south Asia rather than a fresh diplomatic initiative.

The U.N. secretary general, who plans to spend three days in Pakistan and three more in India, declined to answer questions upon his arrival at the Islamabad airport on Tuesday night.

In brief remarks, he praised Pakistan for providing almost 9,000 soldiers for U.N. peacekeeping operations worldwide, more than any other nation.

Mr. Ghali is to speak Wednesday morning to foreign ministers from the 51-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference, which is holding a three-day conference in Islamabad. The ministers also plan to devote much of their time to Afghanistan and Kashmir.

In Afghanistan, where nine Islamic factions are battling for power, Mr. Boutros-Ghali's special representative threw up his hands in frustration last week and said it was impossible to bring the warring groups to the same negotiating table.

"The commitment to peace is not yet sufficiently strong and widespread to overcome inevitable obstacles," said the U.N. representative, Mahmoud Mestiri.

Mr. Ghali may meet with some Afghan leaders, but no one is predicting an end to the fighting.

HANOI (AFP) — Nearly 15 million Vietnamese children went back to school Monday, returning to badly equipped classrooms and demoralized teachers. In spite of government market reforms, the quality of public services in Vietnam has worsened and, according to an education ministry official, about 10 percent of pupils leave school before the end of each year. Families cannot afford to pay fees, and in the countryside, families who their children working in rice paddies, he explained. Two million children between the ages of six and 14 do not attend school. Since the Communist government's economic reforms were started 10 years ago, each pupil has had to pay between 0.5 U.S. cents and a dollar a month for education. Books and uniforms add another 0.5 or average families of three. Children whose average income is just \$220 a year. According to official figures, the country lacks 60,000 teachers. More Vietnamese are turning to other private sector professions in the private sector. Others have to supplement their monthly income of around \$25 by giving evening courses. The Education Ministry asked for \$760 million from the government this year, said the spokesman. It was allocated \$490 million.